# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Gulf Cooperation Council Meets in Jeddah 15 Aug

*LD1508132190 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] Today their excellencies the information ministers of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states held an emergency meeting at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah, under the chairmanship 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, the information minister of the Sultanate of Oman, the current session chairman. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of the meeting, his excellency the information minister in the Sultanate of Oman, the current session chairman, made a speech, during which he said: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. My brothers, their excellencies and members of the delegations; it pleases me to see us gathered at this emergency meeting as a result of the circumstances we in the Arabian Gulf are experiencing, which are no doubt bitter and difficult. However, they are not so difficult that we cannot overcome them. They will not loosen the resolve of the Gulf leaders, who, 10 years ago, signed the document establishing the GCC, and who are looking forward with hope, who are seeing a brother being stabbed in the back, who are looking at brothers who have been separated by greed, and who have lost the path of God.

We meet here today to establish justice through our determination and capabilities and with the guidance of our leaders in order to examine our affairs and to arrive at a beneficial and correct decision which serves our cause, our countries, and our region, and which endeavors to bring us together without compromising a country or our dignity. Our meeting today is the meeting of mind and wisdom. We pray to God Almighty to guide us, make us successful in studying these matters, and guide our steps. May God respond to us and answer our prayers. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

When his excellency the Omani information minister ended his speech, His Excellency [Saudi] Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made the following speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God; prayers and peace be upon the most honorable Prophet, our Lord Muhammad, his kith, and companions. Brother colleagues participating in this meeting, at the beginning of my brief address I am honored to convey to you the greetings of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him, and His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and commander of the national guard, and their best wishes that God will render the brothers successful at this meeting to realize the hopes and aspirations on which we build a great deal through this media meeting, in which we will work—as it is always customary for us—with the heart of one man and the tongue of one man, in order to arrive at the one common aim we have.

No doubt that what his excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas—honorable brother chairman of the session, has said is the fact, and I have nothing to add. [passage omitted]

When his excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir ended his speech, the meeting continued in closed session.

### ACC Session Cancelled; Egypt Reviews Situation

*NC1508105790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—AL-MUSAWWAR magazine reports that the meeting that was scheduled to be held in Baghdad in October by the heads of the member states of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] will not be held, and that Egypt is reviewing the entire situation in light of the disagreement which arose among the ACC's members in the face of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In its Friday edition, the magazine says that President Husni Mubarak sent a verbal message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn through Yemeni President 'Abdallah Salih, who was asked to convey the message during his recent visit to Cairo. President Mubarak informed the Iraqi president that Egypt will not be able to attend the next ACC summit because it will be busy with internal matters connected the elections. However, the recent developments demand a general reconsideration of the situation.

### Kuwaiti Amir's Messages Delivered in Oman, UAE

*NC1408205390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] Muscat, 14 Aug (WAKH)—Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim left Muscat this evening after a brief visit to Oman. The Kuwaiti minister delivered a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id from Amir of Kuwait His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

[Earlier, Manama WAKH in English at 1550 GMT on 14 August also reports in an Abu-Dhabi datelined item that "UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nahyyan received a message from the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah dealing with the current situation in the region.

["The message was conveyed by the Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Shaykh Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah during his meeting with Shaykh Zayid here today."

[At 1600 GMT on 14 August Manama WAKH in English adds that the Kuwaiti interior minister left Abu Dhabi "after a short visit to the UAE."]

### French Envoy Conveys Mitterand Messages, Departs

*NC1408210390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1705 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] Doha, 14 Aug (WAKH)—Thierry de Beaucier, under secretary at the French Ministry of Francophone Affairs and International Cultural Relations and envoy

of the French president [name and title as received] left Doha for Abu Dhabi this afternoon. He had briefly visited Qatar for several hours on a tour of some of the region's countries.

The French envoy delivered a message to Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani from French President Francois Mitterrand on regional developments and bilateral relations. [At 1955 GMT on 14 August, Manama WAKH in Arabic adds in an Abu Dhabi-datelined item, "His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from French President Francois Mitterrand dealing with current regional developments and French views on them.

["The message was delivered by Thierry de Beaucier, under secretary at the French Ministry of Francophone Affairs and International Cultural Relations [name and title as received], during an audience with his highness the UAE president tonight."]

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat Proposes Maghreb Mediation in Gulf

*NC1608090290 Paris AFP in English 0828 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Tunis, Aug 16 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has proposed that the countries of the Maghreb—Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco—undertake a mediating role in the current Gulf crisis, Western diplomatic sources said here Thursday. The four states, according to Mr. 'Arafat, are well-placed to resolve the bitter standoff between Iraq and the West because they are not directly implicated in the conflict.

Mr. 'Arafat met Wednesday with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali and is planning to visit Algeria and Morocco as well. The Palestinian news agency WAFA reported here that Mr. 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has sent an urgent message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on implementing an Arab solution to the crisis, which was sparked by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The Iraqi move has led to a huge Western military buildup in the Gulf, notably in Saudi Arabia, and has caused deep splits in the Arab world. Morocco at last week's emergency Arab summit voted in favor of a resolution condemning the Iraqi invasion and agreed to provide troops to a pan-Arab force to defend Saudi Arabia against a possible attack by Iraq. Libya voted against the resolution, Algeria abstained and Tunisia refused to attend the summit, charging that it had been ill-prepared.

### PLF's Muhammad 'Abbas on Gulf Crisis

*JN1508180790 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Aug 90 p 6*

[Interview with Muhammad 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), by Zuhayr al-'Amiri; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Abbas] I hope that I have not exhausted you with the task of pursuing me. I would like to start by saying that the PLF has responded favorably to the call comrade leader Saddam Husayn addressed to Arabs and Muslims asking them to save Mecca and the tomb of the truthful Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

We have issued instructions and combat orders to PLF combatants, members, and supporters asking them to immediately embark on attacking and hitting U.S. and Western interests, as well as the interests of those allied with the United States and Western powers inside and outside the Arab homeland. This is a modest task, as our duties at this phase are more demanding. Regardless of what we might do and carry out, we will never be able to take tangible steps matching the great pan-Arab accomplishments scored by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. However, we have strong hopes that we will be able to realize our hopes as regards bolstering the course charted by this great leader on the road of attaining our pan-Arab objectives.

The accomplishments scored by militant leader Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi citizen—who was instrumental in effecting this pan-Arab resurgence—is a cause for real pride. At this phase, we desperately need all aspects of Iraqi advancement. We want to have a part of the status created by Iraq. The real battle against Zionism and its ally, the United States, as well as the traitors of this nation, has begun here in Baghdad.

Thanks to the revolutionary action and pan-Arab atmosphere brought about by Iraq, the road to Palestine has been shortened. Hence, all forms and manifestations of the pan-Arab battle against Zionism—everywhere on Arab lands and throughout the globe—have begun to make themselves felt. And in this battle, the Palestinian individual must take his natural position, which is the arena of general confrontation. The Palestinian individual must be at the forefront leading the sons of the Arab and Islamic nation in the march of victory and pride. He must take the initiative of abandoning all forms of capitulation and resignation. Likewise, he must attack all forms of Zionist and U.S. occupation. He must attack all agents and brokers in our region.

What is happening now and originating on Iraqi lands is a source of pride for the Arab nation and for all honorable strugglers who are fighting for freedom. As combatants, we fought the Zionist enemy and imperialism throughout the past phase. All of our measures and operations must serve

the comprehensive pan-Arab position firmly taken by Arab knight and leader Saddam Husayn.

[Al-'Amiri] We see that the toppling of the al-Sabah dynasty agents was the harbinger of a confrontation between the Arab revolutionary movement represented by Iraq on the one hand, and Zionism, imperialism, and their allies and agents in the region on the other. Undoubtedly, this confrontation will take on numerous forms and dimensions, some of which might have never dawned on Washington's mind. Some of these forms concern the Arab masses' solidarity with Iraq, as well as uprisings against corrupt regimes.

[Abu-al-'Abbas] The struggle has neither started, nor will it end with the toppling of the al-Sabah dynasty in Kuwait. For a long time the Arab homeland has been exposed to invasions and catastrophes. The conspiracy of the al-Sabah dynasty against Iraq has been one of the links aiming to maintain the fragmentation and weakness of the Arabs, so that things may not be rectified and put in their proper historical perspective. Besides, this dynasty forfeited the Arab Muslims' right to a decent life in which humane and good values can be cultivated. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Amiri] Then we should start by confronting this corrupt situation, by uprooting this situation to prepare for a pan-Arab resurgence.

[Abu-al-'Abbas] That is true, because we actually believe that the al-Sabah dynasty, the Al Sa'ud dynasty, and the like are acting as bases for colonial powers. That is why they are offering exceptional services to colonial powers on the social, political, financial, and cultural levels. We can easily see the disturbance created in the Arab structure by the remoteness of these corrupt dynasties—something which weakened and fragmented the Arab nation.

We can see that the toppling of the agent al-Sabah dynasty is the focus of the current campaign being launched by imperialism and Zionism. Their frenzied campaign against Iraq should prompt us to abandon all that the colonial powers forced on us. This would be a serious step toward returning things to normal. Thus, Arab wealth would be in Arab rather than foreign or Zionist hands. Furthermore, the Arab individual in the far reaches of Mauritania would have a claim to Arab wealth, just as the Arab individual in the far reaches of the Arab East would have a claim to this wealth.

The basic threat posed to pan-Arab security comes from these corrupt dynasties because they played a role that is no less dangerous than the roles of the Zionist entity and Western colonial powers. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Amiri] We can say that the unity of Iraq and the return of Kuwait to the mother homeland is considered a turning point in contemporary Arab history. Separating Kuwait from Iraq and dividing the Arab map at that time was also the beginning of a new stage in Arab history. The side-taking, which appeared in the recent Cairo meeting, constitutes a danger to the Arab situation. This might be the beginning of a terrible division.

[Abu-al-'Abbas] We say yes to this side-taking and classification that took place in the recent summit meeting. This is required to expose the traitors, brokers, and agents. This will be in the interest of the real pan-Arab course and the Arab revolution movement. This is because we do not need appeasements in the coming stage.

Look at those who stand on the side opposing Iraq—the traitors Al Sa'ud, Al Sabah, and Mubarak, who is involved in the capitulatory march of Camp David and the broker of imperialism and Zionism. The summit resolutions were very treacherous and cowardly. They clearly revealed some Arabs' cowardice and the standard reached by others in terms of their deep involvement in the march of conspiracy, betrayal of the nation, and confrontation with its honorable free men.

The most serious thing is the summit's treasonous decision to justify the U.S. military presence, which is in the form of occupying Arab territory. In order to know the lowest level to which Al Sa'ud has reached, we say that they called for Shamir, Peres, Sharon, and Arens under a weak and exposed pretext. Who believes that Iraq threatens Saudi security? Will anybody believe such lies? Do they call for Shamir to protect the Kaaba and the prophet's tomb, or to slaughter the newborn Iraqi child before it grows up? We know what they want, and we are fully aware that the false decision issued by Mubarak's summit to dispatch Egyptian forces is a guise to cover their faults exposed by events and their mean conspiracy against Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Amiri] The traitors are waving the stick of aid sent to the sons of the intifadah and the PLO, and threatening to expel the Palestinians who work in Saudi Arabia, for example. This course of blackmail might in one way or another affect Palestinian action in the future. What do you say about this?

[Abu-al-'Abbas] The aid they are talking about is a big lie, different from the rally they held in Cairo and called an extraordinary Arab summit. First, I would like to clarify the fact that the aid they are talking about is taken from the salaries of the Palestinians working there on a monthly basis. This is the contribution of the Palestinians in support of the intifadah and the PLO, and is given to the PLO after being collected from the Palestinians. Is this the aid they are talking about? They sometimes even became so impudent that they give us one-quarter of the amount they collect as a loan from our Palestinian people to the revolution and the intifadah. This is the aid they speak about while the princes from Al Sa'ud, the traitors, squander millions at the gambling tables in Las Vegas, night clubs, and in despicable acts.

You know well that they will use all methods against us, but, as in physics, every action has a reaction. They will see with their own eyes how we will extract our right from them by force. In any case, it is a battle and conflict between the wills of good and evil. [passage omitted]

### Urges Attacks on U.S. Interests

*NC1508161890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1550 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] A Palestinian official today called on his fighters to attack the interests of the Arab countries that are allied with U.S. imperialism and U.S. interests and military presence. Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu-al-'Abbas, leader of the Palestine Liberation Front issued a call saying: The fighting order to everyone of you, wherever he is, is to strike at U.S. interests, all the centers and forces of espionage that are linked with these interests, the interests of the agents, and the U.S. and NATO military presence in the Arabian Peninsula.

### PFLP-GC Supports Iraq Against 'Imperialism'

*JN1508153590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1443 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Beirut, 15 Aug (INA)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has affirmed that Iraq today is a bone in the throat of world imperialism and firmly confronts it, despite the gravity of the conspiracy and its numerous networks.

In two statements issued on the latest developments in the Gulf region, the PFLP-GC said that proud Iraq is being exposed to the fiercest imperialist-Zionist onslaught on all political, economic, and media fronts to bring pressure to bear on it and to prevent it from acquiring the technological expertise needed to create components of impregnability and strengthen the potential of the Arab nation.

The PFLP-GC affirmed in its two statements that our Arab lands will burn under the feet of hostile imperialists, and that they will be graveyards for imperialists and their supporters. The two statements added that millions of Arabs will carry rifles, start a rebellion, and express a readiness to fight and resist until their last drop of blood so that defeat might be inflicted on the imperialist troops and their air and naval fleets, and so that Iraq may remain a bastion of steadfastness and defiance and a constant beacon for the Arab nation.

The PFLP-GC said that the onslaught and its clamor fall within the context of an unjust hostile campaign targeting our Arab homeland to secure its submission to U.S. domination and other evil powers.

The PFLP-GC added that the parties with defeatist positions that decided to dispatch troops to the [Arabian] Peninsula came to show their deep connections with the schemes of the nation's enemies. The PFLP-GC went on to say: We have never heard before that Arab troops were dispatched to intervene to end the Zionist occupation of Palestine. These troops should have been given the task of liberating the occupied parts of southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights. This would have been better than settling old scores by standing in the trench of the Arab nation's enemies alongside Zionist and U.S. enemy troops.

### Official Says No Palestinians in Kuwait Invasion

*PM1508150090 Paris LE MONDE in French 15 Aug 90 p 4*

[Michel Deure report: "No Palestinians Have Participated in the Invasion of Kuwait"]

[Text] Tunis—Following the Arab summit, the main Palestinian leaders—including Yasir 'Arafat who immediately left for Khartoum and Sanaa—returned to Tunis during the weekend, visibly irritated by the scant attention paid in Cairo to their proposal for a "political solution" to the conflict. They clearly blame Mr. Mubarak for that but, probably to avoid adding to the controversy, they are refraining from mentioning him by name.

"The PLO will continue to seek a political solution, despite the resolution adopted by the summit and the problems which the situation in the Gulf presents," Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad) told us. "We will continue our contacts with all the parties involved, including Saudi Arabia."

Abu-Iyad contradicted the reports published in the American press claiming that Palestinian elements had joined the Iraqi forces during the invasion of Kuwait and were participating in the new "people's army." "I challenge anybody to give any evidence of Palestinian participation—military or otherwise—in Kuwait," he said. "It is a plot aimed at undermining the PLO, which is not involved in the conflict in any way."

### Egypt Reportedly Closes Border to Palestinians

*TA1508114890 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Aug 90 p 6*

[Report by Roni Shaqed and David Regev]

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have closed the Rafah border passage to Palestinians.

The Persian Gulf emirates—and probably Iran as well—do not allow the entry of Palestinians into their territory. Fear was expressed in the territories that Egypt might expel Palestinian students from its land.

Many residents of the territories working in Saudi Arabia or the Persian Gulf emirates who arrived here on their summer vacations, have stayed in the territories for fear that they will not be allowed back to the Gulf countries. Many of the Gaza Strip residents who left for work in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have been recently asking their families to prepare magnetic cards and other documents for them to be able to reside in the Strip if needed.

Institutions in the territories which until recently have been receiving funds from Kuwait, have started discussing ways to obtain funds from alternative sources. Mahmud Haybiyah, chairman of the board of directors of the East Jerusalem al-Maqasid Hospital, said yesterday that in a recent board meeting it has been decided to appeal to Western consuls, including the U.S. consul,

and ask them to help finance the hospital. "We need at least $1 million a month. If we do not find that kind of money in the next two months, we will be forced to close the hospital."

Arab sources yesterday reported that in view of the large amount of sympathy Gaza Strip residents have been showing for Saddam Husayn, and following the calls to hurt U.S. citizens, the U.S. Embassy in Israel has recently delivered a warning to some 30 UN Relief and Works Agency personnel who are U.S. citizens not to travel to the refugee camps on their own.

It was further reported that U.S. Embassy representatives have contacted hotels in the Gaza Strip to see if there are U.S. citizens there.

A general strike is expected today in the territories following a call by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to show support for Iraq and condemn U.S. intervention in Saudi Arabia.

The expression of support for Saddam Husayn continued in the territories yesterday as well, mainly in graffiti, demonstrations, and clashes with the Army.

### Amman Envoy Confirms Negative Vote at Summit

*JN1608062190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Aug 90 p 26*

[Text] Amman, PETRA—Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Amman, has told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that statements attributed to an official Palestinian source, to the effect that the PLO abstained and did not vote against the resolutions of the recent summit in Cairo, are unfounded. He said the PLO's position is clear to everyone. It objects to the transformation of the Arab territories into a base for U.S. aggression against fraternal Iraq, with which we stand in the same trench to face the imperialist-Zionist onslaught that aims to impose hegemony on our nation and threaten its security, present, and future. He added that the recent Cairo summit's resolutions are illegal.

The Palestinian ambassador expressed the hope that the media will seek to publish the truth in the fraternal Arab media. He said hostile media are trying to cast doubts on the strength of ties among the brothers in arms who stand in the same trench.

### Sa'id Kamal Dismissed for Statements on Summit

*JN1508201890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Aug 90 p 24*

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—An official source at the PLO has stated that Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Cairo, has no representative capacity in the wake of statements in which he tried to distort the PLO's stance and tarnish the position that opposes the U.S. military presence in the Arab territory aimed at committing aggression on sisterly Iraq.

Kamal announced that the PLO abstained from voting, and that it did not vote against the Cairo summit resolutions. The source affirmed that the PLO has rejected the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit in Cairo.

### Hani Al-Hasan Denies Dismissal

*JN1608055590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Aug 90 p 17*

[Text] Tunis, PETRA—Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has denied reports that the PLO has relieved its ambassador in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, from his post.

In a press statement distributed here yesterday, Hani al-Hasan explained that Kamal is still at his post and is carrying out his duties as normal. He added that Egyptian-Palestinian relations are continuing despite some differences.

He said that Arab differences and inter-Arab fighting will not serve the Arab nation's interests.

A PLO official spokesman emphasized in Tunis on Sunday that Sa'id Kamal's statements on the crisis in the Gulf and the Cairo summit's resolutions do not represent the PLO's position, which it expressed clearly at the summit, and that Sa'id Kamal is not authorized to talk on the PLO's behalf on such issues.

### PFLP-GC Sources Deny Jibril Went to Baghdad

*JN1508213590 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Official sources at the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] have denied a Zionist enemy radio report carried on 15 August 1990 that Mr. Ahmad Jibril, the PFLP-GC secretary general, traveled to Baghdad recently. The PFLP-GC sources say this report is without foundation in part and parcel, and that disseminating false reports by the enemy is not surprising, because this enemy lives on deception and disinformation.

### French Envoy Cheysson Visits Tunis, Meets 'Arafat

### Delivers Mitterrand Letter

*LD1408212890 Paris Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] Claude Cheysson delivered a message from Francois Mitterrand to PLO President Yasir 'Arafat this afternoon. It is a very important message concerning the crisis in the Middle East, stated Mr. 'Arafat's political adviser although he did not give any other details about the text of the French President's message.

Meanwhile, another envoy is in Tunisia at the moment; he is Pierre Mauroy.

For his part Jean Lecanuet, president of the Foreign Affairs Commission in the Senate, has arrived in Ankara to hold

talks with the Turkish authorities: he is reportedly due to be received tomorrow by President Turgut Ozal.

### 'Arafat Conveys Reply

*LD1408235090 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] The president of the State of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, met in Tunis yesterday Tuesday afternoon with the special envoy of the French president, Mr. Claude Cheysson. The French ambassador to Tunisia also attended. The Palestinian news agency WAFA said that during the meeting, President 'Arafat received an important message from the French president related to the situation in the Middle East region and the Gulf crisis which threatens to explode, with unpredictable consequences, and the importance of the efforts being made to find a political solution to the crisis. The agency pointed out that the Palestinian leader conveyed to Mr. Cheysson a reply message which expressed consideration for the stances of the French president in making more efforts to contain the dangerous crisis in the Gulf and find a political solution.

### Cheysson Warns on Further Action

*LD1508090490 Paris International Service in French 0637 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Yesterday the Tunisians received former Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson, envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand. He met with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat for one and a half hours. It is reported that the Palestinian leader told him the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, and his country, must not be cornered. Claude Cheysson said that any further military action in the region, whatever its origin, from whichever side, would result in a cycle of unavoidable reprisals.

### 'Arafat Receives 'Urgent Message' From PRC

*JN1608075390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1837 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Tunis, 15 Aug (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has received an urgent message from the PRC leadership on the serious developments in the region. The PRC charge d'affaires in Tunis handed the message to Yasir 'Arafat during a meeting here today.

The Palestinian president sent a message, which was described as important, to the Italian Government. The message deals with the developments in Arab region in light of the intensive U.S. military presence in the Arab region.

## Algeria

### Spokesman Welcomes Iraqi Move on Iran

*LD1508205490 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Following President Saddam Husayn's announcement of his recognition of the 1975 Algiers agreement, a Foreign Ministry spokesman issued the following statement:

Algeria has received with extreme satisfaction the news of the four-point peace plan presented by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn concerning the Iraq-Iran dispute. This major development falls within the framework of the direction along which Algeria has been working since the outbreak of the conflict between the two brothers, that is, the settlement of differences between the two countries through dialogue, negotiations and the creation of a climate of fraternity, cooperation and trust in the interest of the two peoples, and Islamic solidarity in the face of the major challenges facing the Islamic nation. Algeria remains firmly convinced that direct negotiations, away from any foreign interference or pressure, is the sole way to settling conflicts and coming up with solutions which respond to the real interests of the countries concerned.

### Foreign Minister Comments on Oil, Gulf Situation

*LD1508224490 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Statement by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ghazali to television on 15 August—recorded]

[Text] Does the current situation in the oil market call for extraordinary measures? We say no. When I say we, I do not mean we as Algerians—experts, scientists, and market dealers do not see a state of crisis, and the best proof is the price. For instance, the price now is $25 a barrel. In relation to purchasing powers, $25 does not have the same value as in 1975. Here we warn against the political backgrounds. Why? If it is a matter of compensating for Iraqi and Kuwaiti production, this means we will be trying to involve OPEC in a new flooding of the market; this is not in line with the interests of our peoples. Is there—at any time when we see preparations to blockade the Iraqi people in order to weaken and starve them—is there an idea to involve OPEC in this operation which we as Arabs reject? There is no Arab country which wants to weaken the Iraqi people. The tragedy which we are living is enough.

Let us look at pan-Arab security. There are a people suffering from an operation of military interference as a result of which the fraternal people of Kuwait were rendered homeless and there is a hemorrhaging of capital, souls, and [words indistinct]. There are the people of Saudi Arabia and the peoples of the other Gulf countries who feel threatened to the extent of being forced to fight sister and friendly countries. Third, there are the people of Iraq who are now directly threatened with a military blockade; this we reject.

We must say there is no alternative to an Arab solution. The crisis is Arab-Arab and it should be solved through Arab-Arab political means. We say yes to legitimacy, we hold to international legitimacy, but it should apply to all. Why is the bill paid by the wronged party: the Arab side?

Of course, the invasion of Lebanon, the invasion of Arab territories by Israel, the daily oppression of the Palestinian people: this does not justify an Arab-Arab invasion. But it is the right of the Arab peoples to ask: Why is this military concentration—which is unparalled in history—in one region? There is no alternative to an Arab solution to an Arab-Arab crisis, and there is no escape for the international community from dealing with the harming of international legitimacy from any side.

## Egypt

### U.S. Request To Use Territory Rejected

*JN1408132290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egypt has rejected a request from Washington to allow U.S. forces in the Gulf region to use certain Egyptian areas to confront developments in the region.

The U.S. request was made by John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, when he met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The request states that Egypt's military assistance to the United States would contribute toward a successful implementation of the deterrent plan against Iraq. According to informed Egyptian sources, the U.S. request stressed the need for Egypt's consent to allow the U.S. forces to use certain vast Egyptian areas near the Red Sea to ensure the success of the American plan.

Our radio has learned that in its reply to the U.S. request, Egypt said that its cooperation with the United States will be determined by the extent to which this will preserve the security of the Gulf states without threatening the security of other regions in the Arab world. Egypt justified its position on its participation in the Gulf region by saying that this is based on its commitment to implementing the Arab League resolution on forming Arab forces. Egypt said it will deal only with the Arab forces, and that the United States already has its coordination plans with the other foreign powers.

'Abd-al-Majid expressed the hope that the problem will be solved peacefully without any external Arab or foreign military intervention.

### Canal Authorities Prevent Iraqi Vessel's Transit

*NC1508150990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Port Said, 15 Aug (MENA)—Suez Canal authorities decided today to prevent the Iraqi vessel Zayn al-Qaws from crossing the canal because it refused to pay transit fees amounting to approximately $12,000. The vessel's maritime agent refused to pay the fees on the instructions of its owner and the Iraqi maritime company.

The ship, which is carrying foodstuffs, arrived in Port Said two days ago and the Iraqi Maritime Company refused to pay the transit fees.

### Ghali Says Prospects for Peaceful Solution Less

*NC1508180190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that Egypt is making intensive diplomatic efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

Dr. Ghali emphasized that Egypt supports any initiative or efforts that aim to realize this objective. He noted that Egypt continues to try to achieve a peaceful solution, although the propsects of success have diminished.

### Second Contingent Leaves for Saudi Arabia

*NC1608100990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0903 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—The second contingent of Egyptian military forces under the command of Major General Muhammad 'Ali Bilal, head of the Armed Forces inspection department, left Cairo early this morning for Saudi Arabia.

Maj. Gen. Bilal is the commander of the force that the political leadership has decided to send to the Gulf area in implementation of the resolution of the emergency Arab summit conference in Cairo to defend the Arab Gulf states against any possible aggression in conjunction with other Arab forces, whose vanguards have begun arriving in Saudi Arabia.

Brigadier General Husayn Mamish, the Egyptian official military spokesman, is scheduled to issue a statement later today about these forces and their mission.

### NDP Issues Statement on Iraqi Invasion

*NC1408210090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Statement issued by the General Secretariat of the National Democratic Party on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait—place and date not given]

[Text] The masses of the Egyptian people as well as the entire world were stunned by the Iraqi military invasion of the fraternal State of Kuwait. This invasion left negative impressions in the hearts of the Arab nation's people in particular and of the world in general. Serious and important steps were being taken toward uniting the ranks of the Arab nation and clearing the atmosphere of all differences in order to fulfill the nation's aims and hopes, but Arab solidarity suffered a great setback with Iraq's invasion of the fraternal State of Kuwait by force of arms.

At a time when all Arab and international forces were marshaling all their sincere efforts to prevent the immigration of ever-increasing numbers of Soviet Jews to Israel with all the very grave repercussions that this immigration has on the Palestinian issue;

At a time when Lebanon was trying to rally its forces to implement the al-Ta'if accord in order to repel danger and avoid disintegration;

At a time when the Arab countries were trying their very best to modify their development infrastructures and study their economic problems;

At a time when President Husni Mubarak was drawing attention to the need to define a new Arab concept on the basis of which the Arabs could move to the horizons of the future, following the quick and successive developments in the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, so that the Arab nation would not find itself on the margin of events and outside international participation;

And on the basis of the national and pan-Arab responsibility and out of concern for the unity of Arab ranks and for Arab solidarity, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, acted positively and immediately on the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait. He embarked on his urgent tour, shuttling between Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, in order to contain the crisis before the situation deteriorated further.

The Arab world and the international community were taken by complete surprise by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwaiti territories, which took place despite the promises of the Iraqi president to the leaders of Egypt, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Japan, and the United States that he would not use military force. Egypt continued to exert every possible effort to contain the situation in order to bring about the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy to it, stressing the importance of keeping this crisis within the framework of the Arab family and away from any foreign intervention.

Millions of Egyptian people and the entire Arab nation denounced the senseless invasion that contravened all Islamic and civilized values and international and Arab norms. This unanimous stand took shape in the resolutions of the Islamic foreign ministers, the Arab League council, and the Security Council. All these resolutions

condemned the Iraqi invasion and demanded the aggressor Iraqi forces' immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwaiti territories. They also demanded the return of the legitimate rule to Kuwait.

Because the Iraqi leadership failed to show any sign of response or dialogue, President Mubarak took the initiative in calling for an emergency Arab summit in Cairo within 24 hours, to which there was a prompt Arab response. The Arab summit succeeded in issuing its historic decisions condemning the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, not recognizing Iraq's decision to annex Kuwait, calling on Iraq to pull its troops out of Kuwait immediately and restore the legitimate rule that existed before the invasion, and responding to the demand by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf states for Arab troops to assist their armed forces. Undoubtedly, these decisions reflected a genuine pan-Arab sense of awareness and the Arabs' ability to shoulder the responsiblity in times of danger.

The National Democratic Pary [NDP] General Secretariat, which supported President Mubarak's endeavors and initiative for a solution within an Arab framework as well as his call for an emergency Arab summit in Cairo, backs all the decisions issued by this summit and condemns all attempts to create maneuvers and cast doubts by the forces of evil and aggression, in a bid to distract the Arab nation's attention from the main issues, which are the tyrannical Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and the inhuman practices against Kuwait's people; Iraq has even gone so far as to threaten the pure and holy territories.

The NDP General Secretariat, while expressing the support of the masses in the NDP, which represents the majority of the great Egyptian people, declares that there is unequalled popular backing for President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in his courageous and heroic stand, reflecting the nobility of the Egyptian people who have never given up on any right and who sacrificed thousands of martyrs in defense of the causes of their Arab nation. By so doing, President Mubarak has given an example of an Arab leader who has a historic and pan-Arab sense of awareness, thus declaring to the whole world that Egypt cherishes principles and values and holds sacred what is right and just. In doing this, Egypt is not influenced by any ulterior motives or driven by any ambition or desire.

While denouncing all threats against the holy lands within the framework of the attempts for expansion and aggression, the NDP General Secretariat affirms the need for an Arab military umbrella that could spare the Arab nation reliance on a foreign umbrella, something that President Mubarak called for before the Arab summit. For this reason, we support the presence of Arab troops, in which Egypt will participate, to defend the lands of the two holy mosques, so that they remain pure and free from harm and aggression. The NDP masses throughout Egypt stress that they are standing firmly behind their honest and sincere leadership, which has faith in God, and reiterate their determination to stand strongly on the side of what is right and to stand up firmly to any attempts by the proponents of falsehoood.

The NDP masses address a call to the rulers of Iraq, foremost among them being Iraq's Saddam, to recover from their aggression, wake up from their slumber, and come to their senses, in order to avert the grave dangers that will involve the entire Arab nation without exception and to spare the fraternal Iraqi people what is being concocted for them by their leaders.

The Egyptian people, who sincerely believe in their Arabism, will always remain the backbone and shield until the victory of right and justice. They reiterate their loyalty to their leader Muhammad Husni Mubarak in his lofty Arab march, with God's help.

### 48 Kuwaiti Ruling Family Members Arrive

*NC1508054790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0028 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—Forty-eight members of the Kuwaiti ruling family arrived in Cairo tonight on board a special aircraft from Saudi Arabia. The Cairo airport authorities provided the necessary facilities to them. They carried Saudi travel documents because they entered Saudi Arabia without their passports.

### Mubarak Receives Mitterrand Envoy, Message

*NC1508104790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Jean Louis Bianco, envoy of French President Francios Mitterrand, who handed him a message from the French president concerning France's views on the Gulf crisis.

### Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives in Alexandria

*NC1508205090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Alexandria, 15 Aug (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived here this evening. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met him at the airport. President Husni Mubarak will receive the Saudi minister tomorrow, Thursday.

### Minister Requests Help for Egyptians in Gulf

*NC1508190390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Fu'ad Iskandar, minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad, met today with the ambassadors of Iraq, Jordan, and the Republic of Yemen in Cairo. They discussed ways to facilitate the departure of the Egyptians from the disputed region in the Gulf and how to safeguard their rights. Minister Iskandar asked the ambassadors to ask

their countries' officials to make all facilities available and to eliminate the obstacles facing the Egyptians during their return to Egypt.

### Reports on Ill-Treatment of Egyptians Denied

*NC1508152390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1444 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Amman, 15 Aug (MENA)—Ramzi 'Allam, minister plenipotentiary and charge d'affaires at the Egyptian Embassy in Amman, denied today the report in the Egyptian paper AL-WAFD, edition number 1079 issued yesterday, that the Jordanian authorities are mistreating Egyptians returning from Iraq and Kuwait.

The minister plenipotentiary stressed that these reports are baseless and untrue and that representatives from the embassy and the Egyptian Interior Ministry are now at the Jordanian entry points to act immediately on issues related to the travel documemts of Egyptians and to deal with various problems on the spot.

He stressed that these representatives have the full cooperation of the Jordanian authorities, particularly the latter's welcome and treatment of Egyptians returning through these points.

The Egyptian official thanked the Jordanian Interior Ministry and security organs for their full cooperation with the Egyptian Embassy in Jordan.

### MENA Says New Radio Starts Broadcasting

*NC1508171690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—The transmission of an Arab radio station began on a medium wavelength of 271 meters today. The radio station broadcast Egyptian, Moroccan, Syrian, and Kuwaiti songs.

It has not been determined yet if this radio will be the prelude to a radio station that would represent the free people of Iraq or would represent the Kuwaiti people. It has also not been determined if the site of the new radio station is the Arab region or Cyprus.

It is known that Iraq has allocated more than 50 medium- and short-wave frequencies to jam the Voice of the Arabs, Cairo Domestic, and the The Middle East Radio, and also the Saudi Arabian and the United Arab Emirates radios.

### Committee Increases Crude Oil Prices

*NC1508181590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Aug (MENA)—The committee to set oil prices decided today to increase the price of Egyptian crude oil starting tomorrow, Thursday [16 August] so as to be in line with world prices in light of recent developments in world markets.

The new prices will be as folows:

Suez Gulf crude—$24.25 a barrel.

Ra's al-Bihar and Khalij al-Zayt crude—$24.55

Bala'im crude—$23.40

Ra's Badran crude—$22.25

Khalij Gharib crude—$21.95

This is the second time that the price of Egyptian crude oil has been increased since the beginning of August. The first increase was on 8 August when the price was raised by $2 a barrel. [passage omitted]

## Libya

### Al-Qadhdhafi Says U.S. Pledge Aids 'Security'

*LD1508153390 Tripoli JANA in English 1454 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution gave a statement today to JANA on the interactions of the situations in the Arab Gulf region in which he said:

I felt relieved for the start of the awakening of the (?conscience) of America, especially the ordinary citizens who represent the press that asked the (?U.S.) President questions identical to our point of view and that of the international law and the U.N. Charter. For they have said to him "Why did you act alone in imposing embargo upon Iraq which had annoyed the rest of the members?" And they said to him "How much are you interest? In the reports which arrived from the United Nations criticizing you for acting unilaterally and maybe outside the context of your legal authority with regards to the Gulf embargo apart from the policy of opposing the annexation of the occupied territories? And how come that America opposes it in the Gulf and approves it in the Middle East?"

The leader of the revolution added in his statement by saying "The positive response from the U.S. President to those press questions stir a feeling of security the U.S. President said 'I hope we do the job that will lead to the returning of all the ships which are in contradiction with UN measures from where they came".

The leader of the revolution explained in his statement to JANA that "such a thing is considered approval of our suggestion to the world calling for the convening of the U.N. Security Council to put things in their right orders". The leader said "Here is the ordinary citizen in America starting to feel that the U.S. and its allies' measures in the Gulf were wrong. This has led to the admission by the U.S. President to that and pledged to contribute in the returning to the U.N. umbrella, which had stirred in us some security."

### Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message to Saddam Husayn

*LD1608080190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0754 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Aug (JANA)—Yesterday evening the brother leader of the revolution received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

JANA has learned that the brother leader of the revolution charged President 'Arafat with conveying a message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in the Great Jamahiriyah yesterday evening.

### 'Arafat Departs

*LD1608080490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Aug (JANA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Tripoli yesterday evening after visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message on Gulf to Gorbachev

*LD1508175890 Tripoli JANA in English 1654 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal 15 [15 August], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received the ambassador of the Soviet Union to Great Jamahiriyah.

The leader asked the Soviet ambassador to convey a verbal message to President Mikhail Gorbachev which included a call from the leader for the need to convene the U.N. Security Council in Geneva to issue resolutions leading to the regulation of the situation in the Gulf and pre-arranging matters in accordance with the U.N. Charter.

The leader stressed in his message the need for other forces not to be present in the Gulf apart from the U.N. forces which should be specified by the council and under its command and should not take any action except on its orders.

The leader explained in his letter to President Gorbachev that the behaviour of the U.S. forces and those of its allies in the Gulf was considered an aggression that must be resisted.

In his letter, the leader said "Even if Saudia [as received] has the right legally to ask for foreign forces to protect it, that would not solve the Gulf's problems which can not be solved except by the presence of the Arab League's forces which should gradually replace the U.S. forces in the Gulf region."

The leader asserted that the measures, which have begun with interceptions of ships in the Gulf, are considered acts of aggression apart from being outside the scope of the international law. He pointed out that Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, which has been used as an excuse for intervention in the Gulf, meant to repulse foreign forces from the territories of the concerned states—which is expressed by "the right" of self-defence.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Message Handed to Foreign Envoys

*LD1508122990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Aug (JANA)—A number of ambassadors and charge d'affaires of a number of world countries accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah were summoned today to the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

There the officials were handed an important message from the brother leader of the revolution to the leaders of their countries in connection with the critical situation in the Arab Gulf and with regard to the leader's call for convening a session of the Security Council in Geneva to issue resolutions that would lead to regulating the situation in the Arab gulf and normalizing the situation in conformity with the UN Charter.

## Mauritania

### Government Satisfied With Iraqi Initiative on Iran

*LD1608014690 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met today, Wednesday, 15 August 1990, under Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state. [passage omitted]

The minister of foreign affairs and cooperation made a statement on the international situation and the crisis in the Gulf. Within this context, the Council of Ministers expressed its satisfaction at the initiative taken by the president of the Iraqi republic, His Excellency Saddam Husayn, the initiative which is aimed at the establishment of peace and harmony between two fraternal and neighborly countries: Iraq and Iran. [passage omitted]

## Morocco

### Kuwaiti Prime Minister Arrives for Talks

*LD1508161490 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Excerpt] Shaykh S'ad al-Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, arrived at noon today in Morocco. He was welcomed on arrival at Rabat Sale Airport by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed. [passage omitted]

### Meets With King Hassan

*LD1508221490 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] The Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah, arrived at noon

today on a visit which was distinguished by King Hassan II's reception of him tonight at the royal palace in Skhirat.

King Hassan II, who was flanked by Crown Prince Sidi Muhammad and Prince Moulay Rachid, received Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister. Shaykh Sa'd was accompanied by Nasir al-Raidan, commerce and industry minister; Shaykh Salman Mahmud al-Misbah, director of the heir apparent's office; and 'Abd-al-Harun, Kuwaiti ambassador in Rabat.

After that, the king held one-to-one talks with Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

His majesty's reception of Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah was attended by Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki; Chamber of Deputies Chairman Ahmed Osman; his majesty's advisers Ahmed Reda Cuedira and Ahmed Ben Suda; Minister of State Moulay Ahmed Aloui; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali; and Minister of Interior and Information Driss Basri. [passage omitted]

## Kuwait

### AL-ANBA' Comments on Husayn Initiative

*NC1608104290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (MENA)—In its edition published in Cairo today, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' comments on the scenario of the Iraqi capitulation to Iran's conditions for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 that provides first for a return to the international borders and then the implementation of the remaining clauses.

In an editorial commenting on the initiative on Iran announced by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn yesterday and his acceptance of the 1975 Algiers agreement, the paper says that Saddam Husayn could not reveal this scenario to the great people and valiant army of Iraq, nor could he declare it to the quarter of a million widows and mothers of the martyrs and to the 1 million orphans in Iraq.

The paper adds that the inspired president could not reveal the steps of this exposed scenario to the Iraqi youths who have been deprived of all good things in life.

AL-ANBA' notes that Saddam could not reveal this scenario to the tens of millions of Arabs who stood beside him during the time of "al-Qadisiyah," which turned out to be a historical blunder upon that he embarked upon to defend his regime and maintain his power in Iraq. Nor could he tell the world's honorable and learned people and artists that what they wrote about and sang for al-Qadisiyah was but one horrible chapter in his struggle to remain seated on the throne of Iraq.

AL-ANBA' emphasizes that if Saddam Husayn were really the knight we carried on our shoulders for 10 years, it would have been more honorable for him and for his own history and the history of Iraq and Arabism to withdraw his forces from Kuwait instead of withdrawing them from territory he retrieved from Iran with the blood of the martyrs.

The paper says that it would have been more appropriate for Saddam to renounce the crime he committed against the people of Kuwait and the millions of Arabs whose livelihoods and children's education were devastated by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It would have been more appropriate for him to give up the illusion of annexation instead of ceding to Iran the Shatt al-Arab, which had been Iraqi territory for thousands of years and only fell into Iran's net during the tenure of the president who is "supported by God," Staff Marshal Saddam Husayn.

Concluding its commentary, AL-ANBA' says that had Saddam done that, he would not be the Saddam who has become accustomed to making concessions only to non-Arabs and to making promises and offering secret agreements only to those who are not his brothers. May God forgive him if there is room for forgiveness in heaven. May God have mercy on him from his people and from the knights of his army if the mercy of death can extend to tyrants.

### Heir Apparent Meets With Kuwaiti Ambassador

*NC1508152790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1345 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Manama, 15 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander of the Bahrain Defense Force, received Kuwaiti Ambassador Faysal Muhammad al-Haji this morning.

During the meeting they discussed current developments in the Arab Gulf and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti ambassador thanked Bahrain, on behalf of the Kuwaiti Government, for all the assistance and facilities it extended to Kuwaiti nationals in Bahrain in line with the profound and close ties between the two fraternal countries.

Shaykh Khalid Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, director of the heir apparent's office, also attended the meeting.

## Oman

### Qabus Receives Message From Saddam Husayn

*NC1508170790 Manama WAKH in English 1346 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Muscat, 15 Aug (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn within the framework of current contacts on the situation in the Gulf.

The Omani news agency said that Omani Deputy Premier for Financial and Economic Affairs Qays 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi received the message during a meeting with Iraqi Ambassador in Oman Khalid 'Abdallah al-Samarra'i here today.

### Qabus Receives Mitterrand Message

*NC1508175390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1355 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Muscat, 15 Aug (WAKH)—Thierry de Beaucier, minister of state at the French Foreign Ministry [name and title as received], left Muscat this afternoon following a brief visit to Oman.

During his visit the French minister delivered a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id from French President Francois Mitterrand dealing with bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest.

### Official Says Oil Production Will Not Increase

*PM1508105390 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 90 p 10*

['Isam Hashish report: "Omani Oil Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: High Oil Prices Will Not Tempt Us To Increase Production"]

[Text] An authoritative source at the Petroleum and Minerals Ministry has said that the Sultanate of Oman has not increased its oil production, pointing out that the high oil prices have not tempted the sultanate to increase its production rates despite its ability to increase its output by certain ratios.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the source indicated that there are OPEC and non-OPEC states which have increased their production in an attempt to exploit current conditions and in a disorganized manner.

Answering a question on the decision announced by the sultanate a few weeks ago to postpone the implementation of plans to increase oil production to 700,000 barrels a day as of the end of this year, the source said that the sultanate is still committed to what it announced and has no plan at the moment to change it to increase production. He emphasized his country's eagerness to maintain stability in the oil markets.

The source pointed out that the sultanate is bound by contracts to sell its oil to a number of states, indicating that the present production rate is 650,000 barrels a day: 600,000 for export and 50,000 for domestic needs.

The source pointed out that plans for developing the oil fields and discovering new ones are proceeding normally and without any change.

## Qatar

### Cabinet Affirms Support for Summit Resolutions

*NC1508164490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1205 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Doha, 15 Aug (MENA)—Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani chaired the regular weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers today. At the beginning of the meeting, his highness briefed the Council on the results of the emergency Arab summit which was held in Cairo on 10 August and the results of his contacts and consultations with his brothers in the Arab countries and the heads of these countries' delegations.

His highness expressed profound appreciation for the warm welcome he and his delegation were accorded in Egypt and for the wisdom and competent management of the conference shown by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. He also voiced appreciation for the efforts made by the Arab Republic of Egypt in order to convene the conference and provide the means to attain the positive resolutions which were subsequently adopted.

The Council of Ministers emphasized Qatar's support for all the resolutions adopted by the summit.

Afterwards the Council of Ministers discussed the issues on its agenda and made the following decisions:

1. It approved the Montreal Protocol for 1984 amending the international civil aviation agreement of 1944.

2. It approved the transportation and communication minister's proposal on holding negotiations in Beijing to conclude an agreement to organize aerial transport between Qatar and the People's Republic of China.

3. It approved participation in a number of Arab and international meetings.

4. It discussed the following two issues and adopted the appropriate measures on them:

a. The interior minister's memorandum on the rules of granting, revoking, and denying citizenship as approved by the Arab Interior Ministers Council.

b. The memorandum submitted by the secretary general of the higher planning council on the results of the third meeting of the (?technical) committee of the under secretaries and planning departments of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries which was held in Riyadh in May.

## Saudi Arabia

### Security Source Reviews Death of U.S. Citizens

*LD1608032290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0230 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Riyadh, 15 Aug (SPA)—An official security source has made a statement to SPA in which he said: At 2000 on Tuesday, 14 August 1990, a [foreign] resident of the city of Riyadh happened to be driving in his own vehicle accompanied by his family at the same time that a drug peddler, who was being followed by the authorities, was in the same area. At a traffic light junction, fearing that he might be arrested, the drug peddler stopped his own vehicle—which later was found to be malfunctioning—and opened fire on the vehicle in which the resident and his family were driving and demanded that they open the door for him and drive on at full speed. He then opened fire on the police vehicle that was nearby and ordered the resident to drive wherever he directed. The security men gave chase with the goal of saving the family, as they knew that he was a dangerous man. After the chase, the security men managed to apprehend him after having cornered him and exchanged fire with him. It then became apparent to them that the family were U.S. nationals. As a result of this [exchange of fire] the wife of the U.S. citizen and her

child were killed. The security authorities are conducting an investigation with the criminal prior to putting him on trial.

### 11 Said Killed in 'Violent' Demonstrations 14 Aug

*JN1508154690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1440 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Reliable sources have released official information saying that demonstrations were staged in the city of Jeddah on 12 August demanding a U.S. troop withdrawal from Najd and al-Hijaz and that these demonstrations were dispersed ruthlessly.

In the wake of these demonstrations, agent [King] Fahd met with a number of citizens in an attempt to absorb the indignation.

It has also been learned that a state of dissatisfaction is plaguing the Saudi Army because of the U.S. military presence. Military personnel, particularly officers, have stated publicly that agent Fahd does not trust the Saudi Army and that he brought in the Americans to protect him.

Najd and al-Hijaz are currently witnessing a large-scale flight of capital. Besides, black marketeering has become prevalent for the first time there. The dollar was exchanged for 6 [Saudi] riyals.

In a related development, the Tunisian weekly AL-WATAN said that 11 Saudis were martyred yesterday [14 August] in violent demonstrations staged in a number of cities in Najd and al-Hijaz demanding the withdrawal of the foreign troops, which have desecrated Islamic holy sites. The Tunisian weekly quoted eyewitnesses arriving in Tunis as saying that Fahd troops violently confronted these demonstrators and that U.S. troops took part in suppressing other demonstrations staged in the city of Jeddah.

The paper pointed out that these 11 citizens were martyred in the areas where U.S. troops are deployed in Dhahran, where the U.S. troop headquarters is located.

The Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ said on Sunday [13 Aug] that violent demonstrations were staged in some cities in Najd and al-Hijaz to protest the foreign troop intervention in the region.

## United Arab Emirates

### Port Rejects Iraqi Request To Load Cargo

*NC1608111890 Paris AFP in English 1056 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Aug 16 (AFP)—The port of Dubayy has refused an Iraqi request for two freighters to load cargo here in defiance of a United Nations embargo, a port official said Thursday.

David Gibbons of Dubayy's Port Rashid Authority said the Iraqi freighters, Al-Abid and Al-Baya, were anchored in the Gulf more than three miles (five kilometres) off the emirate.

"There has been a request on their behalf from Iraqi sources for them to load here but we have told them we have no space or labour available for working these ships at the moment," he said.

Mr. Gibbons declined to elaborate on the source of the request and said the rejection was not linked to U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait August 2.

"We're running a commercial port and we're not in a position to accept the ships," he said. "So it hasn't reached the stage where I have to ask the government here whether they can dock."

He said the two ships were "fairly small cargo vessels" waiting to load goods for Iraq. He could not specify the nature of the cargo.

The United States and Britain have said their navies would interdict any ships attempting to take goods to or from Iraq and Iraqi-controlled Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia on Monday [13 August] turned away an Iraqi tanker from the Red Sea port of Yanbu'.

### 500 Palestinians Said Deported, Others Arrested

*JN1608080990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 16 Aug (INA)—According to reports in Abu Dhabi, the security authorities in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] apprehended and deported 500 Palestinians over the past week.

The reports also say that some 400 other Palestinians are still under arrest.

These measures are part of the harassment of Arab citizens in (?Hejaz) [Saudi Arabia] and the UAE because of their countries' denunciation of the U.S. military presence in the Arab Gulf and their support for Iraq in its confrontation of the imperialist and Zionist conspiracy against the entire Arab nation.

## Yemen

### Salih Receives Message From Mitterand on Crisis

*JN1508140290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received today at his office Alain Decaux, minister delegate for Francophone affairs and French President Francois Mitterrand's envoy, who conveyed a message to the brother president from President Francois Mitterrand dealing

with the developments of the critical situation in the region and the French position. The message also dealt with bilateral relations.

The brother president tasked the French minister with conveying a message to President Francois Mitterrand dealing with our country's efforts and attempts to contain the crisis to establish a comprehensive peace in the region and avert any possible military confrontation, which would shatter the peace, security, and stability in the region and lead to a catastrophe.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani; Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and the French ambassador to our country.

### Cabinet Lauds Iraqi Stand on Iran Initiative

*JN1508161190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held its ordinary session this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Haydar Abu- Bakr al-'Attas.

After reviewing the resolutions of its previous session, the council discussed topics on its agenda. It conducted a full evaluation of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Cairo and of the latest new developments witnessed by the region.

The council condemned foreign intervention in the affairs of the Arab countries. It also expressed full support for the comprehensive political initiative announced by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The council considered this initiative a sound foundation which could be developed into realistic and tangible solutions for the existing situation in the region to realize security, stability, and permanent peace.

The council also discussed the Presidential Council's step of tasking the cabinet with following up our country's efforts in this field with the Arab and foreign countries, the Arab League Council, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, the United Nations, and the UN Security Council to develop this initiative and realize a peaceful solution to the crisis in the region within the framework of international legitimacy. The council adopted the necessary measures for this.

The Council of Ministers praised Iraq's initiative and its announcement that it would withdraw its troops from the frontlines with Iran and proceed to release the Iranian POW's within a comprehensive solution for the dispute between Iraq and Iran.

The Council of Ministers also paused before the results of the Council of Ministers' draft law no. 24/1990 on regulations and steps that should be taken when setting up or holding reelections in any popular organization. The council approved the draft law and referred it to the Presidential Council to issue it through a presidential decree. [passage omitted]

### Demonstrators Stress Support for Saddam Husayn

*EA1508134390 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] The capital city, Sanaa, the economic and trade capital, Aden, and all other Yemeni cities today witnessed mass demonstrations and marches in which thousands of our Yemeni sons participated. The demonstrators (?crowded) roads and public squares echoing shouts, while holding placards on which they expressed their absolute rejection of the presence of foreign fleets and troops in Arab waters and lands, demanding that they immediately withdraw and leave the affairs and concerns of the region for the sons of the Arab masses to solve them by themselves.

They stressed the support of our Yemeni people for the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's initiative, which represents a logical approach for arriving at a comprehensive and complete solution to all the problems of the area, lauding in their shouts the Yemeni political leadership's principled national stance rejecting the foreign presence, and the leadership's honorable efforts aimed at containing and resolving the crisis and finding its solution within the united Arab family. They also condemned the attempts of the U.S. Administration, its allies, and those Arab leaders supporting it for imposing a siege on Iraq, despite the fact that the recent UN Security Council resolutions did not make any reference to imposing such a blockade. The demonstrators repeated shouts demanding the Arab nation and the world stop this farce and demanding the downfall of old and new colonialism.

## 'Aziz Sends Message to UN on Iran Withdrawal

*JN1508211690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2020 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar asking him to instruct the head of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG] to cooperate with the competent Iraqi authorities to achieve the withdrawal of forces as of next Friday [17 August]. The following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency: Iraq has always called for and has worked earnestly and sincerely to establish a lasting and comprehensive peace with neighborly Iran, a peace that guarantees the rights of the two countries and the continuation of good-neighborly relations between them.

You are aware that Iraq has proven this firm stance since the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979. Iraq continued to underline this stance throughout the armed conflict between Iraq and Iran in various methods and on different occasions, particularly through the many messages addressed by Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, to the Iranian peoples. Some of these messages were distributed as official documents at the UN General Assembly and Security Council.

You are also aware that Iraq did not hesitate throughout the period of conflict to adopt positions that bring closer peace opportunities and that President Saddam Husayn's initiative on 6 August 1988 produced the cease-fire announcement. After the cease-fire and the initiation of meetings under Your Excellency's sponsorship, Iraq presented a number of initiatives and ideas to achieve peace. The most prominent of these initiatives and ideas are the proposals we presented to your personal representative Jan Eliasson in Baghdad on 13 November 1989. This was followed by the comprehensive peaceful initiative of Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, in January 1990 that was communicated to the United Nations and was distributed as a document.

Iraq then adopted a historical and daring position when President Saddam Husayn took the initiative to hold direct talks with the Iranian leadership. This came in the message of peace which Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, sent to 'Ali Khamene'i and 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on 21 April 1990. The contents of the message drew a positive response in a way that enabled the two countries to continue the contacts.

It is noteworthy that President Saddam Husayn afterward sent—within this context—a number of messages to President Rafsanjani on 19 May, 16 July, 30 July, 2 August, and 3 August 1990. Direct contacts continued throughout this period between authoritative representatives of the two leaderships. They are Barazan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative, and (Cyrus Naseri), Iran's permanent representative in Geneva. During these contacts we presented many proposals and initiatives that would facilitate the process to achieve peace.

Out of the firm, principled stance to which Iraq has adhered, and out of Iraq's honest desire to actually enter into the process to achieve peace and resolve all suspended issues with Iran, President Saddam Husayn sent a historical message to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 14 August 1990, including the following elements:

First, to approve your—addressed to the Iranian side—proposal as contained in your reply letter dated 8 August 1990, which our representative in Geneva Barazan Ibrahim al-Tikriti received from your representative (Cyrus Naseri), considering the 1975 agreement connected with the principles cited in our letter dated 30 July 1990, especially regarding the exchange of prisoners and Paragraphs 6 and 7 of UN Security Council Resolution No. 598.

[Second,] on the basis of the first paragraph of this letter and in our letter to you of 30 July 1990, we are ready to send a delegation to you in Tehran, or to receive your delegation in Baghdad, to prepare the agreements and sign them on the level to be agreed.

[Third,] as a goodwill gesture, our withdrawal will begin as of Friday 17 August 1990, and we will withdraw our forces stationed on the border opposite you, leaving only a symbolic force together with the border guards and police to carry out daily duties under normal circumstances.

Fourth, all prisoners of war held in Iraq and Iran should be exchanged immediately and comprehensively across land borders and via Khanaqin and Qasr-e Shirin and other border points to be agreed upon. We will start this process as of Friday, 17 August 1990.

Your Excellency the Secretary General: With this historical initiative, Iraq lays down, through a genuine and historical stance, the pillars of a lasting, comprehensive peace with Iran and achieves what is sought by the international community, the United Nations, and all world peoples.

I would like here to reiterate the historical initiative announced by Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, on 12 August 1990—the initiative that deals with the regional issues. And here we affirm the sincerity of our intentions and the seriousness of our stand by resolving one of the serious and complicated regional issues whose continuation constitutes a threat to world peace and security.

In order to achieve the withdrawal as of the date mentioned in President Saddam Husayn's message—17 August 1990—I would like to ask Your Excellency to instruct your UNIIMOG Commander General Slavko Jovic to cooperate with the responsible Iraqi authorities to achieve this mission.

I present to Your Excellency a copy of the message of Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, to 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic

Republic of Iran, dated 14 August 1990; and a copy of his excellency's message dated 30 July 1990.

With my best regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq, Baghdad

[Dated] 15 August 1990

## Paper Calls U.S. President 'Unique Liar'

*JN1608091590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0545 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has described U.S. President Bush as a unique liar. In an article today, the paper says:

U.S. President Bush is making a big mistake to imagine that by repeating some words to his aides and advisers or to the U.S. propaganda machine he can divert attention from his true motives for sending his troops to the Arab Gulf in an aggressive mission that has been rejected and denounced by every honorable man in the world.

It adds: If, through his recent statements, Bush was trying to justify his desperate adventurism, mislead U.S. and world public opinion, and forestall the heavy losses that his forces may suffer if they attack Iraq, then this is his own business and the storm resulting from these losses will fall on his head alone. We, however, would like to clarify some facts apparently unknown to some people, including the U.S. President, who, perhaps, knows these facts but is ignoring them for reasons linked to the aggressive mission of his forces in our Arab Gulf.

The first fact, explains the paper, is that the armed U.S. occupation of sacred Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] has deepened the conflict between the Arab nation and the hostile United States. It has changed the known dimensions [of the dispute] into a wider one involving the Islamic peoples, who have been provoked by the presence of the U.S. Army near holy Mecca and the grave of the great prophet Muhammad. Let George Bush know, therefore, that this is a holy war between the forces of aggression and atheism, represented by your invading forces and the fleets you sent in an aggressive mission, and the faithful, honorable forces that reject the logic of aggression and the desecration of sanctities.

If you claim that you sent your forces to defend your friends, we say that experience has shown that the only friendship you know is the one you have with your interests; you have often reneged on your friends and allies, as with the shah of Iran, Marcos, the dictator of Haiti, and others. You are the only ones who always repeat: there are no permanent friendships, but permanent interests.

AL-THAWRAH adds: We will not be far from the truth when we describe George Bush as a unique liar, especially as he tries to twist the facts about the black record of U.S. imperialism, which is full of exclusive evidence of acts of aggression against peoples and their sovereignty, security, and stability.

According to this logic, we cannot possibly be convinced that the U.S. invasion of Vietnam was meant as a picnic, the occupation of Grenada was accidental, or the desecration of Panama's territory was planned to encourage U.S. soldiers' tourism to that small country.

The talk about the support provided by Bush and successive U.S. administrations before him for the Zionist entity to entrench its aggression and usurpation of the Arab territories brings all sorts of bad memories.

There remains a final and basic fact that must be emphasized and made known to Bush and others: together with the Arab nation, all honorable Muslims, and all men of principle in the world: Iraq will beat back the aggression and cut off the hand that tries to hurt it. No matter how big the lies of the United States and its small agents are, and no matter how brutal their force is, the power of justice is greater, and the strength of those who seek it is more powerful. And as we always say, brute force will never be able to conquer justice or weaken the truth.

## Minister Opposes U.S. Use of Jewish Soldiers

*JN1508210790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1802 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim has condemned permitting the inclusion of Jewish soldiers among the U.S. forces that have arrived in the land of Najd and al-Hijaz.

Commenting on reports indicating that Jewish officers and soliders have entered the holy land in the Arabian Peninsula, the minister affirmed that this precedent is considered a serious defiance of the sentiments of the Muslims and Arabs and a desecration of their most sacred symbols.

The minister challenged the rulers of Najd and al-Hijaz and the U.S. Government to deny this fact.

## Foreigners Experience 'Difficult Conditions'

*AU1608122690 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 1100 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Iraq is allegedly holding about 500 foreigners in two military camps under extremely difficult conditions. According to the RTL Plus television station, quoting the chief of a Turkish construction firm this morning who reportedly was in such a military camp himself, the people there receive only dry bread and water. In the camp, which is located about 400 km from Baghdad, the hostages are suffering from great heat, and those who are sick do not receive medical care, RTL Plus reports. The television station adds that above all Asians and a few Western foreigners are being held in such camps.

## 'Aziz Sends Message to Red Cross on POW's

*JN1508225590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Aug 90*

["Text" of message from Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, on 15 August]

[Text] Your Excellency, you are well aware that Iraq has always been interested in working sincerely and earnestly to establish a durable, comprehensive peace with neighborly Iran—a peace that guarantees the two countries' rights and constant relations of good-neighborliness. Iraq has proved this constant policy through many positions and initiatives that have been specifically declared through the messages addressed by Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, to the Iranian people. Within this framework, Iraq has worked relentlessly to end the suffering of the POW's in implementation of the human international law's noble objectives included in the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. This was Iraq's course during the armed conflict with neighborly Iran—whether through its respect for the Geneva Convention regarding the treatment of Iranian POW's and cooperation with the ICRC in this regard for securing their best possible treatment or through the launching of proposals and initiatives that would alleviate the suffering of POW's. We particularly refer to Iraq's proposals included in the UN document [not further specified].

Undoubtedly, you remember Iraq's persistent activity after the cease-fire went into effect to end the suffering of POW's through a comprehensive, immediate exchange of all POW's in accordance with the obligations stipulated by the Third Geneva Convention of 1949. That took place apart from the developments of the negotiations over political issues. You also remember our strong, constant adherence to this position, which was explicitly and openly supported by the ICRC. What falls within this framework is ending the suffering of the POW's in the initiative of President Saddam Husayn of 15 January 1989. You also undoubtedly remember Iraq's cooperation with you since the cease-fire was observed—when it became difficult to achieve an immediate and comprehensive exchange through following the methods that lay the required ground for this exchange and end the sufferings of the sick and wounded prisoners.

In this position, Iraq demonstrated its deep faith in human values and objectives, on which its constant obligations are based in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention.

In pursuance of Iraq's constant stand vis-a-vis peace with neighborly Iran and its sincere desire to resolve all pending issues between the two countries, Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, today, 14 August 1990, sent a historic message to the Iranian leadership including the elements of a comprehensive solution to all issues related to the conflict, including the POW issue, which came within the context of pursuing his excellency's historic initiative of directly contacting the Iranian leadership on 21 April 1990, and the subsequent letters and contacts.

Regarding POW's, and as a goodwill gesture, President Saddam Husayn's letter stipulates the following:

—All prisoners of war held in Iraq and Iran should be exchanged immediately and comprehensively across the land borders via Khanaqin, Qasr-e-Shirin, and other border points to be agreed upon. We will take the initiative in this, and we will start this process on Friday, 17 August 1990.

Thus, Your Excellency, on this historic day a human objective has been achieved—an objective that Iraq and the ICRC have been working to achieve for a very long time.

I do not have the slightest doubt that you and your colleagues will welcome this position happily, and that all of you will spare no effort and will take all measures needed to fulfill your noble human mission as soon as possible to achieve a full and comprehensive release of POW's without any restrictions, conditions, or obstacles. The relevant Iraqi authorities are fully prepared as of now to cooperate with ICRC officials to start the release of Iranian POW's held in Iraq and to return them to Iran.

Enclosed for your excellency is a copy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's letter to Mr. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, dated 14 August 1990, as well as a copy of his excellency's letter dated 20 July 1990.

Please accept our best regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq. Baghdad, 15 August 1990, corresponding to 24 Muharram 1411 Hegira.

## Daily Numbers Discussed

*JN1608054890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0512 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—An authoritative spokesman at the presidency has stated the following:

In pursuance of the contents of leader President Saddam Husayn's message yesterday to 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it was decided to release 2,000 Iranian prisoners of war [POW's] daily as of tomorrow, Friday 17 August 1990, starting with those who have spent the longest in captivity.

However, the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Baghdad apologized for lacking the facilities to hand over this entire number on a daily basis and expressed readiness to take the necessary measures to hand over 1,000 POW's daily.

Iraq, therefore, is discussing with the ICRC the possibility of raising the number through assistance and providing facilities.

## INA Notes Iranian 'Happiness' With Proposal

*JN1508171590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—A spokesman for the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed deep happiness over news of the initiative launched by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on Iraq-Iran ties.

In a statement to Radio Tehran in Persian made today, Murtada Sarmadi [name as received] said that the provisions contained in the Iraqi initiative fall in line with the views of the Iranian Government. He added that the initiative is based on the international norms and rules which guarantee the interests of the two neighboring Islamic peoples of Iraq and Iran.

Sarmadi affirmed that the doors were today opened wide for peace in the entire region and also for peace between the two countries in particular, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598.

## Paper Welcomes Iranian Response to Initiative

*JN1608084890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that President Saddam Husayn's initiative on relations between Iraq and Iran stems from Iraq's, and its president's, concern to achieve peace and stability for the sake of the region and the world community.

In an editorial entitled "The Message of Historical Responsibility," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Iraq's concern, as represented by President Saddam Husayn's initiatives, including this noble message, is a principled concern based on the sincere and deep belief that peace is the right path in life and that the region's security and stability will reflect positively on the world's security and stability.

The paper adds: This is being confirmed these days in particular. The imperialist and Zionist threats are giving indications that what the U.S. Administration is doing—together with its allies and small agents, such as Egypt's Ruler Mubarak and Fahd, the Americans' servant—by bringing in its armed forces and fleets to the region's land and waters constitutes a threat to all states in the region. The paper cautions that these forces stand in the same hostile trench that not only targets Iraq, but also Iran and the other states in the region, as well as those near and outside the region and those who have interests in it.

The paper explains that President Saddam Husayn's message to the Iranian president aims, as explained in its clear preamble, to remove any obstacles blocking the way before ties of brotherhood among Muslims and pave the way for a serious interaction with all believers to face the threats of the common enemy of the Arabs and Muslims which has begun to desecrate the Arab and Islamic sacred places while everybody, without exception, is watching it.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Iraq's new initiative also stresses that Iraq wants for itself what it wants for others. It only wants to live in security and stability and to provide the requirements for a decent life for its citizens, the sons of the Arab nation, and the world countries which believe, as Iraq does, in the bases of joint cooperation that is based on the principles of good neighborliness, nonintervention in internal affairs, mutual respect, and mutual interests. It is certain here that what President Saddam Husayn has decided in his message is a practical application of what was originally proposed in the Iraqi initiative on 12 August. The president reaffirms to the whole world that Iraq does what it says it will do because it believes in what it says, and what it does confirms what it says.

AL-JUMHURIYAH explains that Iraq's decision to withdraw its troops from the Iranian territories as of tomorrow, Friday, in a gesture of goodwill will also free more than 30 divisions of the Iraqi Army.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes its editorial by saying: What remains to be said is that President Saddam Husayn's noble and clear message is the message of the historical responsibility. The Iranian leadership's response to the message is an expression of this responsibility. It is also an expression of the belief in the common objectives of the people who sincerely believe in the values of Arabism and Islam.

## RCC Issues Decisions on General Amnesty

### No. 323

*JN1508215990 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Decision No. 323 issued by the Revolution Command Council, RCC, in Baghdad on 15 August]

[Text] In line with the spirit of victory and challenge; to give the chance to those who would benefit from such an opportunity to end their previous delinquency and deviation which took them away from proper conduct; in service of the sound principles and sublime objectives of our glorious Arab nation, the nation cherishing justice, right, and well-being; and in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. A general amnesty shall be granted to the Arab nationals detained and imprisoned in jails. They shall be released immediately.

2. The detainees and prisoners convicted of the following crimes shall not benefit from the provisions contained in paragraph (1) mentioned above:

a. Drug trafficking.
b. Premeditated murder.
c. Espionage.
d. Forging documents.
e. Forging currency.

Second [as heard], legal proceedings against those involved in all crimes with the exception of those mentioned in 2 of (First) above, whether their cases are under interrogation or trial, shall be stopped once and for all. Those of them who are detained shall be released.

Third [as heard], this decision shall be published in the official gazette. The competent agencies shall implement it.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC Chairman

### No. 324

*JN1508200990 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Revolution Command Council, RCC, Decision No. 324 issued in Baghdad on 15 August]

[Text] In line with the spirit of victory and challenge; to give a chance to those who would benefit from such an opportunity to end their previous delinquency and deviation which took them away from proper conduct; in the service of the sound principles and sublime objectives of the glorious 17-30 July Revolution in Iraq—the country of pride, victory, peace, and progress—and in accordance with the provisions contained in paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. A general amnesty shall be granted to Iraqi nationals detained and imprisoned in jails. They shall be released immediately.

2. The detainees and prisoners convicted of the following crimes shall not benefit from the provisions contained in paragraph (1) mentioned above:

a. Espionage.
b. Drug trafficking.
c. Premeditated murder.
d. Theft.
h. Homosexuality.
i. Incest.
j. Embezzlement of public funds.

3. The amnesty shall not cover the following:

a. Those sentenced to execution and those whose death sentences were commuted.
b. Those returning to Iraq after benefiting from a general amnesty or a special pardon for previous crimes.
c. Those convicted for belonging to movements that have connections with foreign powers.
d. Those convicted of conspiring to topple the regime.

Second [as heard], the legal proceedings against those involved in all crimes with the exception of those mentioned in 2 and 3 above, whether their cases are under interrogation or trial, shall be stopped. Those who are detained shall be released.

Third, this decision shall be published in the official gazette. The competent agencies shall implement it.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC Chairman

## Ship Reportedly Denied Suez Canal Passage

*JN1608065490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Cairo, 16 Aug (INA)—The INA correspondent in Cairo has reported that the Egyptian Suez Canal Authority decided to prevent the Iraqi ship Zayn al-Qaws from transiting the canal under the pretext that it had not paid the fees due.

The ship, loaded with a cargo of food, had arrived in Port Sa'id's berth two days ago.

## Lives of Foreign Pilots Not Guaranteed if Downed

*JN1608075490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0657 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Unscheduled call]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Call from the Air Force and Air Defense to the foreign pilots who were embroiled by Bush, Zionism, and Fahd in a losing affair. The Air Force and Air Defense is preparing to beat off the aggression and crush its waves in a brilliant act by the valiant Iraqi Armed Forces, and with all steadfastness and determination. They are not shaken by the empty storms around them and are gaining yet further strength by their reliance on God and the rare high morale of their falcons. In the oath of the faithful men, they are raising the slogan of victory, victory, and martyrdom for the sake of victory. At the same time, they extend a warning to the losing pilots who were pushed not to defend an honorable cause, but to occupy the land of the [Islamic] message and the holy places in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], so that the villain architects of this can use these lands as a base for their aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

We warn the aggressor foreign pilots that because the Iraqi public—from Zakho in northern Iraq to al-Nida' [al-Ahmadi] and Kuwait on the sea in southern Iraq—is agitated over the news of the aggression and the military buildup, we cannot guarantee the lives of those who fall on Iraqi territory. Their lives are further threatened by the fact that there are currently large numbers of Arabs who are as outraged as the Iraqis. This increases the possibility of attacks on the lives of foreign pilots because these people do not enjoy long war traditions, and their anger and agitation may drive them to ignore the laws of war. We underline this and draw attention to it. God is great and might is for great Iraq and the zealous honorable Arabs.

## Minister Says Wheat Reserves Will Last 'Years'

*JN1508113890 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 12 Aug 90 pp 3, 15*

["Exclusive" to AL-JUMHURIYAH by Sami al-Zubaydi]

[Text] On the orders of President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, the price of wheat bought from farmers has been increased from 270 to 400 dinars per tonne, barley from 180 to 250 dinars per tonne, and rice to 800 dinars per tonne. Speaking to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih added: The purpose of these measures is to ensure Iraq's self-sufficiency in cereals, considering them a basic foodstuff, and to respond to the economic war launched by world imperialism, Zionism, and their agents in the region and elsewhere.

Addressing a symposium held by the Trade Ministry and the General Cereal Trading and Processing Company for the owners of mills and flour plants in Iraq last night, he said: U.S. imperialism, with the cooperation of other Western states, has imposed a trade and economic embargo on Iraq, imagining that it can strangle Iraq and the Iraqis and make them submit to its will. However, I assure you that this imperialist measure will certainly fail because today we have a large reserve of foodstuffs that will last for years. I would like to say that Iraq has never had such a record high of wheat reserves as it has today.

The trade minister added: We have managed to find new means to increase our strength in the face of the United States and others and to counter the economic blockade against us. It is certain that the Iraqis, who proved to be on the level of the confrontation, will look for new methods to resist the Western imperialist invasion and thwart its criminal schemes. He added: Priority goes to supplying people with food and we will seek to ensure a stock of food for the longest possible period of time. We shall break the economic blockade. The longer this blockade persists, the more detrimental it will be for the Western states. The foreign exporters will lose their market in Iraq and their production will decrease. The mean economic blockade will also be a national incentive for the Iraqis in general and for farmers in particular to achieve self-sufficiency. Moreover, we have currently stopped the export of foodstuffs, including dates, in order to maintain a sufficient food reserve for our great people. You know quite well that Iraq has large food resources. The national role, however, calls for eliminating waste and damage and regulating production.

The minister referred to the role of mill owners in providing food for the people by controling production and distribution and avoiding waste and loss. This will enhance our economic capability and meet the citizens' needs of staples, especially since Iraq possesses all the requirements for securing and increasing foodstuffs. He said we have set up agencies for selling flour and baked goods to the people.

At the end of the symposium, the owners of the mills promised to increase their production, adhere to the distribution plan drawn up by the Trade Ministry, confine wheat to human consumption, adopt the approved quality specifications, consider the people's food a sacred need which must be constantly ensured under all conditions and circumstances, and regard this task as a practical popular participation in defeating the U.S. aggression and foiling the economic blockade against our homeland.

### Embassy Spokesman Mocks Claims of Army Excesses

*JN1408220890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] Cairo, 14 August (INA)—A spokesman for the Iraqi embassy in Cairo has scoffed at reports by some Egyptian newspapers on claims about the immoral behavior of some members of the Iraqi Armed Forces in Kuwait city.

He said that these claims expose the black intrigues of this group of journalists, who have sold their souls to the defunct oil princes. They know very well the nature of the morality of these princes and what they do in various parts of the world.

The spokesman affirmed that the distinguished qualities of the Iraqi Armed Forces are its rigid control, praised by most international military academies, in addition to the fine ethics, strong beliefs, and true fraternity of the officers and soldiers of the valiant Iraqi Army.

## Sharon Discusses Dangers Posed by Gulf Crisis

*TA1508164990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1505 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Yitzhaq Golan on the weekly "With A Discerning Eye" program—live in the studio]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Golan] Do you think we are keeping a low profile on the Gulf conflict willingly or because in the present reality we are not so much of a strategic asset? This question is being asked frequently.

[Sharon] Israel is, first and foremost, its own strategic asset. This is a very important point which must be remembered at all times. As such, it is a good fallback for the free world. Israel's strength lies in the fact that it is the only democracy in the Middle East; there is no other democracy in the area. Moreover, Israel has military might and it is a stabilizing factor in the Middle East. It need not take the lead. It will act when necessary and is currently taking actions in those spheres where it must take action. Everybody realizes that given that the United States is in one way or another operating in Saudi Arabia with the Arab countries, it would not be very advisable for Israel to be involved. We have no business getting involved there. Having said that, I would like to note that we are closely following events with great interest. We realize very well that any development in the Middle East that does not culminate in an attack on Saddam Husayn will only lead to other wars in the future. Therefore, we are taking into consideration a situation whereby Saddam Husayn retains his plunder or is not defeated. This would be a serious situation and would pose a serious problem for Israel in the future. I am not saying that we should shout our views from the rooftops. We have the ways and means to say what we want to say quietly, as it should be. This does not mean that Israel is staying on the sidelines and is not analyzing the situation. Israel is analyzing events, must make decisions, and must be prepared to take action according to developments. There are many dangers.

[Golan] Are you anxious over the fact that we might get caught by surprise and be found unprepared? This has been known to happen in the past.

[Sharon] There is no reason why we should not be prepared this time. After all, what is happening now resembles events in 1967, on the eve of the Six-Day War, rather than events on the eve of the Yom Kippur War. True, on the eve of the Yom Kippur War there were vast amounts of information that was misinterpreted, but there was no time.

The present situation has been going on for almost two weeks, and we have time to get ready and analyze the various possibilities and draw contingency plans for every eventuality. This should be done while the situation is still quiet and decisions can be made calmly, rather than under pressure, so that we can provide solutions to all the problems.

I would like to reiterate that, in my opinion, the situation in the Middle East is increasingly becoming dangerous for Israel and will yet get worse if a decision is not made one way or another.

[Golan] Let us say that the situation is decided in one way or another, that Saddam is overthrown. What do you think will happen the next day? Will the UN Security Council and world public opinion, which have up until now closed ranks behind the United States, not exert vast pressure on us?

[Sharon] We have not invaded any country; we are not threatening to use chemical weapons to destroy other countries; we are not holding thousands of hostages; our soldiers are not murdering, stealing, and raping civilians. Israel is a democratic state that defends itself, and there is no room for a comparison with the situation in Kuwait, Saddam Husayn's behavior, and Iraq's actions. Iraq now has vast military might and is ruled by a murderous dictatorial regime. It can in no way be compared with Israel.

[Golan] Nobody is drawing a comparison. What I meant is that many people, both of your political affiliation and different ones, believe this is the time for the State of Israel to go on leading the peace process and realizing the government's peace initiative of May 1989. Some see a blessing in the endeavors of the defense minister, who continues to hold talks with Palestinian leaders in Judaea and Samaria.

[Sharon] I have several things to say on the matter. Israel should, first and foremost, see to its security. It must make sure that it is prepared for any eventuality. There has been a great deal of talk about a possible attack with chemical weapons, but I am not sure that this is the first thing the Iraqis will do.

[Golan] My question was what will happen once Iraq has been defeated. I am talking about the day after victory day.

[Sharon] I think Israel must do several things. It must come up with a realistic peace plan.

[Golan] A new plan? A different plan from the one agreed on by the government?

[Sharon] I am definitely talking about a different and broader plan. Today we realize that the kind of Palestinian we are going to talk to, a Palestinian who owns a winter residence in Jericho or a shop in Ramallah, is important. It is of utmost importance that we realize that peace cannot be attained with the vast quantities and different types of weapons in the Middle East. Hence, Israel must present an unambiguous, very comprehensive, and broad plan whose main element would be to stop the arms race, reduce the amount of weapons, and attain parity with the Arab countries in terms of armament, so it is able to assume any risk. Can we take risks when Syria has 4,600 tanks and Iraq has close to 60 divisions, 6,500 tanks, surface-to-surface missiles, and

mighty air forces? Another key element would be the beginning of a democratization process in the Arab countries. It is inconceivable that such military might should be in the hands of one man, who can use it as he pleases.

[Golan] But that is not up to us. What is up to us, so people say, is to make changes. We will yet miss Baker's five points, for instance.

[Sharon] No way; we will not miss them. I warned at the time and I am also warning today against acting on the narrow basis of those five points. The problems are vaster and involve a process of disarmament and democratization in the Middle East, a solution to the refugee problem, regional problems such as the water issue, the termination of the dialogue between the Western democracies and the PLO, the disbandment of the terror organization, the eradication of terror inside Israel—the so-called intifadah—and the removal of the PLO. The proper background must be established for a peace process. In the event that this happens, then one may proceed to implement the plan that Israel accepted—or proposed, rather—in the Camp David accords regarding the granting of autonomy to the inhabitants. However, this should be done through a broad approach, with all the processes starting simultaneously. They would not end simultaneously, because democratization is a very prolonged process.

[Golan] If I understand you correctly, as long as the Gulf crisis continues, your position on the Palestinian issue is to sit tight and do nothing?

[Sharon] I think that what is happening now proves that the Palestinian issue is of marginal importance. Let us say that Israel did not exist. Would Iraq not have invaded Kuwait? Assuming that all the problems between us and the Palestinians were solved, would the Arab countries have been less hostile to us? Would al-Asad's hostility not have existed? Would Saddam Husayn's hatred have disappeared?

[Golan] It has disappeared. Saddam's hatred toward Iran, which was the reason he waged an eight-year war that ended in millions of fatalities and casualties, has disappeared. Today there is a renewed romance between Baghdad and Tehran.

[Sharon] I think one should realize this is a ruler who, contrary to what is being said of him, is responsible for his acts and is not deranged. This is a level-headed man who headed a country that waged a war for eight and a half years, a country that sustained some 200,000 fatalities and hundreds of thousands of casualties. He managed to keep his head above water and build up an enormous army. He is a man capable of making cool-headed decisions and deciding on future moves. The fact is that he is now calling the shots. It is the United States, not Iraq, that is now in a dilemma. He is the man who created the dilemma that is currently afflicting the United States. If he wants to secure his border with Iran, that means that he has other ideas in mind. He has had his experience with Iran, and now he wants to secure his common border. Perhaps he wants to mass troops elsewhere after thinning out his forces along the Iranian border. He wants to be sure on this front, and he has other objectives in mind. Where can he go? One direction may be Jordan and Israel.

Any move in the direction of Israel can definitely lead to an increase in the sympathy of the Arab countries toward it. We are already witnessing the enthusiasm of the Arab crowds in our neighboring countries and in Israel—both the Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and, unfortunately, Israel's Arabs who support the actions of this murderous leader. I think the eternal hostility between Iraq and Iran is nothing new, and has disappeared for long periods of time in the past. Saddam decided Iran is not his main battlefront at the moment. He wants to calm the situation on that front and be prepared, perhaps to operate elsewhere.

[Golan] You mentioned the intifadah. Ever since it began, almost three years ago, you have been saying time and again that it has been mishandled. The current defense minister is following in the footsteps of his predecessor, and the territories seem to have calmed down.

[Sharon] The territories have not calmed down in any way. What does calm mean? When two Jewish youngsters are brutally murdered and other murders are committed, does that mean that there is calm in the territories? When explosive charges and roadside bombs are discovered and vehicles are pelted with stones every day, does that mean that there is calm in the territories? Does having a divided Jerusalem mean that there is calm in the territories? There is no calm or tranquility whatsoever in the territories.

I do not want to remark on the performance of cabinet ministers. I only want to repeat what I have been saying for the past three years: The intifadah can be terminated, and it is a shame that people have not and are not preared to listen or try. It is a real shame! We are paying a dear price for it, and we will yet continue to pay it. One day many Iraqi troops may be deployed along the Jordanian border, confronting Israel with the question or threat: Either you stop your security activities at once, or else we will take action. This may very well happen. It should be known that at such moments there must be domestic calm. When faced with such external dangers—and Iraq as well as other developments around us pose a very serious threat to Israel in the future—I ask myself: What can be more important now than bringing about total calm, not a relative calm or a calm caused by the fact that people do not go to certain places or that remote areas are not strictly supervised. First of all, there must be calm in the rearguard. We would be in a very serious predicament if, God forbid, we have to face....

[Golan, interrupting] Do you think now is the right time to deal with the intifadah with one fell swoop?

[Sharon] There is no question of one fell swoop. I have never said anything like that. I hear those terms from people who did not succeed either by using this or other methods. Such a method does not exist at all. It would be a lengthy and arduous process, but it can be done. Some things must be done immediately, and I have made proposals to that effect. I proposed the deportation of the leadership.

[Golan] What prevents that?

[Sharon] It is a question of policy.

[Golan] In other words, the cabinet actually does not accept your demand or proposal.

[Sharon] My cry has been a cry in the wilderness for almost three years, but that fact does not make me less right. I have been a maverick many times in the past, and later it has been proven that I had been right. In this instance, too, I am right. We have to be ready to face external threats, and it is inconceivable that there should be grenades, firebombs, murders, and stone barriers—either among Israel's Arabs or among the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Golan] To wind up this subject, Mr. Sharon, I would like to ask you another question. You mentioned the danger of the move of Iraqi troops into Jordan. What is our red line which, if crossed, would force Israel to contemplate taking action?

[Sharon] I think the government has made it abundantly clear. I think it was made clear by the late Prime Minister Golda Meir, who told the U.S. secretary of state at the time that the first Iraqi tank moving into Jordan would constitute a casus belli for Israel. This was stated then and nothing has fundamentally changed since then. As far as Israel is concerned, the move of Iraqi troops into Jordan is unacceptable.

[Golan] Does that include the entry of ships destined for Iraq through the port of al-'Aqabah?

[Sharon] We are not directly involved in the current blockade. We have not been asked to join it, and I do not think we will be asked. The blockade is being staged by the United States and its European allies, and I do not think we should get involved. We may get involved, if we are asked for other forms of assistance. We definitely are an important ally, and the United States is our ally. Our problems will not be over, even after the United States wraps up its troubles in this region. Particularly if the United States discontinues its activities in the area without dealing a devastating blow to Saddam Husayn, we will be stuck with the problems for many years. [passage omitted]

## Arens To Use Force if Iraqis Enter Jordan

*TA1508124990 Tèl Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] We will not tolerate Iraqi troops moving into Jordan, and we will take action, including the use of force, to curb such a move. Defense Minister Moshe Arens made that statement today in a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Upon emerging from the session, Minister Arens pointed out that Israel had not been asked to join the embargo on al-'Aqabah and he said he believed the Americans would be able to manage without us.

The defense minister noted that Israel is at the required level of alertness at the moment, but this costs money. President Bush is in a similar budget situation and a failure on his part to reduce the deficit might even affect the amount of aid to Israel.

## Views Jordan's Role in Crisis

*TA1508173090 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Eli Nisan on 15 August in the Knesset—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Nisan] Do you think the Jordanian king's visit to the United States is meant to help the Iraqi president climb down from the high tree and find ways to resolve the crisis through diplomatic ways?

[Arens] It is difficult for me to answer this question. I presume that King Husayn would like to see the crisis resolved. As to what exactly he is carrying with him to Washington, I would not like to say. We may know this tomorrow.

[Nisan] Will extensive use of the port of al-'Aqabah by Iraqi vessels docking there force Israel to take action, or will Israel prefer to stand aside and observe?

[Arens] As you know, U.S. President Bush spoke about the efforts that would be made to block the routes to Iraq. He sounded very determined and assertive. I see a very large number of U.S. vessels in the area. We have not been asked to participate in this blockade, and it is my impression that the United States, together with the rest of the countries that play a role in this effort, can fulfill the mission and do it well.

[Nisan] Does this not actually make Jordan a party to the current regional conflict?

[Arens] I think it is too premature to tell. Let us wait and see what position King Husayn takes, and particularly the reaction to what he hears in Washington, as he will undoubtedly be told things.

[Nisan] Do you think the fact that the Egyptians and the Palestinians are on different sides of the fence and that

the Palestinians identify with Iraq push the peace process in our region to the corner?

[Arens] First of all, the peace process in the region—from our standpoint—will never be in the corner. For us it is a most important process. We are dealing with this process and will continue to do so.

[Nisan] There is an ongoing debate in Israel regarding the distribution of gas masks. What are the motives that prevent a decision on the matter from being made?

[Arens] There should be no debate over the matter. The previous decisions still stand, and we are continuing to follow the issue according to the circumstances. We will do everything that is necessary to improve our readiness to face risks and we will do nothing to lower that readiness.

### Discounts Saddam Call for Peace

*TA1508144390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, Defense Minister Moshe Arens cautioned once again: We will not tolerate Iraqi troops moving into Jordan, and we will use force to prevent such a move. On the political level, Israel and the United States agreed to keep a low profile in their relationship in view of the developments in the Persian Gulf. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Gutman] Referring to Saddam's statement that he wishes to make peace with Iran, the defense minister stated:

[Arens] I do not foresee any direct impact on Israel. Saddam is definitely trying to reduce the threats he is facing. [passage omitted]

[Gutman] The defense minister described several scenarios to the committee. Although not very likely, there is the possibility of an aerial attack, either with aircraft or missiles. Saddam knows he would be facing a severe reprisal by the Israeli Air Force. He knows very well that this will be the case, and that is exactly what will happen, the defense minister said. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question from various Knesset members about the distribution of gas masks, the defense minister said: At the moment, there is no change in the policy of distributing gas masks:

[Arens] There are no plans whatsoever to change the policy.

[Gutman] Are you holding discussions on the matter?

[Arens] Discussions are definitely being held, as they should be, but at the moment there is no intention to change the policy. [passage omitted]

### Meridor on Involvement in Gulf Conflict

*TA1508153490 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Justice Minister Dan Meridor.

[Meridor] Good evening.

[Shilon] I would like to start our conversation with a question of whether Israel is a U.S. strategic asset. What is your opinion—after all, the Americans have actually not approached us with a request for assistance?

[Meridor] Like the Middle East as a whole, this is a complex conflict. Not in every Middle East conflict are the Americans interested in Israeli involvement, nor are we interested in involvement in the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict. Hence, U.S. and Israeli interests agree on not involving Israel, or, from the Israeli standpoint, not getting involved in developments or in the U.S. involvement there. It is as clear as day that Saddam Husayn is highly interested in dragging us into this conflict, as this will make things easier for him in the Arab world and will create difficulties for the United States in consolidating its coalition. This explains the allegations regarding Israeli pilots and the threats against Israel. It seems to me that the Israeli Government's path with respect to the developments since 2 August has been correct and has so far proved itself to be so.

[Shilon] Should the fact that al-'Aqabah port serves as a route to transfer goods to Iraq be of interest to us as well?

[Meridor] The port of al-'Aqabah was put in use also during the Iraq-Iran war as an entry route for goods and shipments bound for Iraq. As it is an outlet through which it is possible to access Iraq despite the blockade, President Bush came out with his statement yesterday on the need to seal that loophole. Perhaps King Husayn's trip is related to that as well.

[Shilon] I still did not get a straight answer from you on whether Israel might find itself in a situation in which it will be called upon to assist the United States in blocking that gate, closing that door?

[Meridor] I do not think it is in the interest of the United States to involve Israel, nor do I think the Americans require Israeli assistance to seal the entry port of al-'Aqabah. If they want to achieve a similar effect, they can do that in the Straits of Tiran or in Bab el-Mandeb or anywhere else. We are very interested in developments there; there is no question that these are very important developments from our point of view. Nevertheless, it is important to make a very clear distinction between our interest in the matter, the great and careful attention we devote to it, and direct involvement. We are not directly involved, and it is best that we keep it that way.

[Shilon] There is no Israeli involvement, and besides we have kept a low profile, but there is nevertheless also a casus belli that the defense minister mentioned several days ago, namely the entry of Iraqi forces into Jordan on the one hand, and perhaps also—and this he did not say—missile attacks on Israeli civilian centers. Is that truly Israel's casus belli that would prompt it to get somehow involved in a Gulf war?

[Meridor] I would not like to add anything to the defense minister's remarks; I know that the Iraqis know that there are some things which Israel would not be able to tolerate and that they likewise know that Israel is not Kuwait and differs from it also in terms of its ability to respond or strike back should Iraq do something it knows clearly we will not stand for. I therefore believe rhetoric will add nothing in this context. I do not think it is necessary to heat up the atmosphere by such rhetoric. With your permission, however, I would like to add one more thing: The current conflict is critical and may take one direction or another any day. However, the other question that should interest us deeply is not only the possible war between the United States and Iraq, but how this crisis will end. In the final analysis—whether it takes a week, a month, or two—will Saddam Husayn emerge with his appetite fully or partially satiated? If so, this will be a new and far more perilous Middle East, which we will find difficult to accept, because not only is military strength, conventional and otherwise, increasing here in quantity and quality alike—nurtured by Saddam Husayn—but someone might, God forbid, also draw the conclusion that aggression can win, that it pays, and that the world can swallow it. Hence the test here is important to us for its ultimate outcome.

[Shilon] Before we end this interview, there is one more matter that at least part of the public cannot understand: The U.S. President is on vacation during a time so fraught with danger for the United States; the Israeli prime minister is also on leave during a situation that could be dangerous for us as well. Many Israelis are also taking their summer holiday. How can you explain that?

[Meridor] Because it is August and that is a time people go on leave. You and everyone else know that in these days, with the advanced electronic means at our disposal and the media, vacation does not mean that a person is cut off from reality. The Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs held its regular Wednesday session today and the prime minister presided over it. The U.S. President, too, although he is vacationing in his summer home in Maine, is not cut off from all communications. Besides, those who should be near him are there. I presume the West does not want to show Saddam Husayn that he has managed to disrupt daily routine. I think that the question on the holiday is intriguing and cute, but that is not what counts. It is important that this crisis, once it ends—and I believe it would be best if this happens soon; I do not know who will benefit if things drag on—should end in a way that would make it plain that aggression does not pay. This is a very important lesson, which the West should do everything in its power to instill.

[Shilon] Justice Minister Dan Meridor, thank you very much for coming to our studios.

[Meridor] Thank you.

### Ben-Aharon Comments on PLO, End of Arab Unity

*TA1408154590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister Office director general, by Gay Zohar and Li'ora Nir—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Zohar] I would like to ask you whether Israel has made an attempt to take advantage of the recent days events and of the stands of King Husayn and of the PLO leader so as to launch a political offensive both in Europe and the United States.

[Ben-Aharon] A political offensive?

[Zohar] Yes. I mean, have we taken advantage of the stance of 'Arafat and of King Husayn, who are siding with Saddam Husayn, in order to score points in the United States and Europe.

[Ben-Aharon] I think the recent events and these people's acts speak for themselves. Several myths have been shattered in this atmosphere of brouhaha and rising tension. First of all, we have seen the true significance of Arab unity.

[Nir] Excuse me, Mr. Ben-Aharon. Can we turn this information into tangible achievements?

[Ben-Aharon] What information?

[Nir] The fact that the world has learned that the PLO and King Husayn both support the stance of Saddam Husayn. Can Israel turn this into tangible achievements?

[Ben-Aharon] We will be able to do so after this whole thing dies out and the crisis passes—not before, I think. After it blows over, we will be able to reiterate our argument that the PLO—which has shown its true face—is not the sole legitimate element representing the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The conclusion is that we must revert to our initiative and try to launch negotiations with that population and with its authentic representatives, rather than the elements who sit in Tunis and play at being figures in an inter-Arab game and at getting themselves involved in the Persian Gulf events.

[Zohar] Is this the lesson you have learned?

[Ben-Aharon] One of them.

[Zohar] Yosi Ben-Aharon, we thank you very much.

[Ben-Aharon] You are welcome. Good day to you.

## Commentary Views Saddam's 'Lies,' Behavior

*JN1508114190 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1335 GMT 13 Aug 90*

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: Telling lies is a sign of weakness, and those who practice it usually do so to cover some inferiority or weakness of position. The Iraqi regime under Saddam Husayn has been fabricating lies recently and promoting blatant anti-Israel prevarications. These ridiculous and flimsy Iraqi lies have gone so far as to claim that Israeli pilots are now stationed in Saudi Arabia, and that the Israeli Air Force has camouflaged its warplanes with U.S. signs as part of Israel's preparations to attack Iraq.

Clearly, the propagation of such ridiculous lies by the Iraqi regime is an exposed and flimsy attempt to implicate Israel and use it as cover for its desperate claptrap. It will not mislead anyone, except, perhaps, the naive. The attempt proceeds from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's feeling of how serious his new predicament is, and from his confusion in finding a way out. The same can be said for Saddam Husayn's statement yesterday evening, which Baghdad called an initiative to solve the Gulf crisis.

In addition to its blatant lies, the Iraqi regime—also in its perplexity—has begun to curse, abuse, and threaten certain Arab rulers, especially those who sent their troops to Saudi Arabia or pushed for the recent emergency Arab summit resolutions in Cairo. The Iraqi regime has also made desperate, frantic, and mean attempts to incite the most racist conflicts and provoke religious sedition with a view to turning the Arab peoples up against their rulers, or to evoke in the Arab peoples feelings against the United States and Western countries in general.

All signs indicate beyond doubt that President Saddam Husayn and his regime are moving toward the edge of the cliff and showing clear symptoms of hysteria and paranoia as they begin to feel the brunt of their isolation, and the economic, military, and political chain gradually tightening around their necks, both on the Arab and the international scenes. In such a situation, we pray that God will help the Iraqi people—the knowledgeable and the misled. They urgently need a miracle or a rescuer to pull them out of the horrible abyss toward which President Saddam Husayn and his regime are leading them, and which may result in more serious dire consequences than those that resulted from the bloody predicament and miscalculated step of attacking Khomeyni's Iran in 1980

## Netanyahu Sees Presence as 'Stabilizing Factor'

*TA1608142690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says that Israel's presence in the region constitutes a stabilizing factor because Saddam Husayn must take into consideration Israel's strength as a means to rein in his expansionist desires, particularly in regard to Jordan. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Netanyahu was speaking to U.S. Congressman Stephen Solarz, who is visiting Israel. Solarz said that the United States highly appreciates Israel's handling of the crisis and that today everyone comprehends the implication of the Iraqi threat to Israel.

## Levi Discusses EC Attitude to Israel, PLO

*TA1508171190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi says that Israel must now launch an information campaign to prove to the Western countries once again the fairness of Israel's peace initiative. He claims the PLO's status has largely declined due to 'Arafat's support for Saddam Husayn. These remarks were made following the meeting Foreign Minister David Levi held with his Italian counterpart Gianni de Michelis in Rome. Our correspondent Yig'al Rom reports from the Italian capital:

[Begin recording] [Rom] Foreign Minister David Levi notes a substantial shift in Europe's attitude toward the PLO due to the support Yasir 'Arafat has been giving Saddam Husayn. The Italian foreign minister told Minister Levi that if 'Arafat persists in his courtship of the Iraqis, he will find himself isolated and cut off from all Western support, but he still believes that Israel must now make a contribution toward helping the moderate Arab world unite against Saddam Husayn by reviving the peace initiative—in simpler language, by accepting the Baker initiative and meeting with the Palestinians.

Minister David Levi said in reply: Our peace initiative still stands and the Palestinians may respond to it, but, he emphasized, it is for the Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—not for the PLO, with which we are at war to the bitter end.

The Italian foreign minister leaves for Amman tomorrow to meet with the Jordanian crown prince. I asked Levi what would have happened if he were in de Michelis' shoes and had visited with King Husayn. What would he have told him at this time?

[Levi] I think that Husayn must stop his teeter-tottering, which only endangers him. Israel poses no danger to him. He can expect risks from the PLO and Iraq, and he must return to the path of stability, tranquillity, and a search for peace with Israel.

[Rom] De Michelis and Levi established very good ties at their meeting in Rome, despite their differences. It may well be that the foundations for a substantial future improvement in Israel's relations with the EC were laid today. [end recording]

## Report Considers Views of Israeli Arabs on Gulf

*TA1508144990 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Aug 90 p 8*

[Report by Qasim Zayyad]

[Text] The increasing support of Israeli Arabs for the Iraqi president is assuming new dimensions. It peaked in Nazareth, where the Iraqi flag was waved alongside Saddam Husayn's portrait—the first time since the days of al-Nasir that the flag of an Arab country was flown alongside the portrait of an Arab leader, with the exception of the Palestinian flag and Yasir 'Arafat's image, which have appeared only on special occasions.

Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Arab man-in-the-street has expressed support for the Iraqi president. That support has grown day by day as foreign forces have poured into Saudi Arabia. The Arab citizens regard Saddam as a national hero and ridicule the other Arab leaders, whom they accuse of cowardice and treason. Even King Husayn enjoyed a share of the praise from Arab citizens, who suddenly view him as another hero.

What legitimized the ecstatic public support for Saddam Husayn were the positions adopted by the Arab Democratic Party [ADP] and the Progressive List for Peace [PLP]. The two parties expressed unreserved support for the Iraqi invasion and the annexation of Kuwait. The ADP's Central Committee, which met last weekend in Nazareth, announced its support for the union with Iraq announced by the Iraqi leader. The committee regards the union as a positive step on the road to overall Arab unification. Later ADP Chairman Knesset Member Darawshah declared his party's support for Saddam's proposal for negotiations among the countries of the region on the basis of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the occupied territories.

True to its word, Darawshah's party supports all of the Iraqi strongman's moves, but the PLP also decided to follow suit. It came out with an even stronger show of support. Its mouthpiece, AL-WATAN, ran huge headlines in which Saddam was termed "defender of the desert."

Unlike the two Arab parties, RAKAH [New Communist List] and the Islamic Movement continue to oppose the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, although recently this tune is being hummed more and more mutely. What grabbed more attention than their clear-cut position against the invasion were the U.S. intervention and the growing support for Saddam Husayn on the Arab street. Nonetheless, contrary to contentions raised by certain segments of the media, they have not altered their position.

AL-ITTIHAD, RAKAH's Arabic-language organ, which dedicated its editorial yesterday to the Gulf crisis, again emphasized that the position of the party is unshakable, a matter of principle. The paper, which accuses the media and officialdom of misrepresenting the Arab citizens' views, states that from the first day of the invasion "we said that we objected to it and called for an Iraqi withdrawal and for honoring Kuwaiti sovereignty." Yet AL-ITTIHAD does not make a secret of its stance condemning foreign intervention in the Gulf crisis.

The Islamic Movement's stand is not very different from RAKAH's. Shaykh Khalid Muhanna, the editor of SAWT AL-HAQQ WA AL-HURRIYAH, the Islamic Movement's mouthpiece in Israel (which has closed for three months by order of the interior minister), wrote that there is no change in the position of the Islamic Movement, which denounces the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. "Any report or publication about a change in our views, alleging that the Islamic Movement supports President Saddam Husayn's moves, has no basis in reality."

The most senior Arab body, the Supreme Arab Follow-Up Committee—made up of the secretariat of the Board of Arab Local Councils and the Arab Knesset members—has so far failed to formulate a clear position regarding the invasion because of the dissent among its members. Eager to keep the committee united, chairman Ibrahim Nimr Husayn persists in his position that the dispute in the Gulf is an internal Arab problem and that all forms of foreign intervention should be condemned.

The fact that the Follow-Up Committee has been marking time and has failed to adapt its positions to the circumstances and dangerous developments may be one reason for the chaos on the Arab street. The Follow-Up Committee has always been the axis holding the entire Arab sector together, but its failure to muster the courage to modify the positions of the Arab citizens might drive it into an unnecessary confrontation with Israel's public opinion and authorities. Although Arab citizens should not cut themselves off from what is happening in the international arena, they should not cross any red lines to the point of provoking the Jewish citizens and authorities.

What has actually brought about the aggressive support of Israel's Arabs for Saddam Husayn? Is this support in any way connected with Saddam's intentions to attack Israel?

Two people were asked to voice their opinion on the matter: Sofyan Kabaha, a sociologist from the village of Barta'a, and Nimr Murkus, head of Kafr Yasif's local council and an experienced and moderate politician. Both men voiced almost identical views. According to them, the support of Israel's Arabs for Saddam is the result of psychological distress and despair. "The Arabs are tired of seeing the oppression of their brothers in the territories. The intifadah's failure to terminate the occupation and the 40-year-long discrimination against Israel's Arabs are the main reasons for the displays of support for the Iraqi president."

Kabaha and Murkus added that Israel's Arabs, who have never in their life known the taste of victory, are thirsty for some Arab triumph. "Even during the World Cup

games, Israeli Arabs on all sides of the political spectrum were praying for Egypt's victory, only because it is an Arab state."

In any case, the support for or misgivings about Saddam run parallel to the political awareness and maturity of the individual Israeli Arab. The higher their political awareness, the less thrilled they are about Saddam, or at least this is the impression I get from the reactions in the Arab street. Educated and pragmatic politicians take a rational line, whereas the Arab man-in-the-street and the leaders of the Arab parties who adjust themselves to the former take an emotional point of view.

Are they not worried that the Palestinian issue may be shoved to the sidelines indefinitely because of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait? Are they not apprehensive of the fact that the thousands of Palestinians residing in the Persian Gulf emirates might be the first victims of an Iraqi invasion? Hence, it is important that all Israeli Arabs take into account the reactions that their support for Saddam evoke on the Israeli street and with Israeli authorities. They should do so not out of fear, but out of a sense of responsibility for the future of Jewish-Arab relations.

## Local Arab Elements Condemn, Welcome Saddam

*TA1208193690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Aug 90 p A3*

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] The Iraqi incursion into Kuwait serves the interests of the Islamic movement, Ibrahim Sarsur, spokesman for the Israeli Islamic Movement, said yesterday. He is also head of the Kafr Qasim local council. According to him, "this offers a chance for a change in the Arab world. The leaders of Arab countries will realize that they must not leave the decision making with a radical maniac like Saddam Husayn, and this realization will lead them to pan-Arab and pan-Islamic unity." He was speaking at a meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the Israeli Arab Local Councils held in the mosque of the Bedouin township of Tel-Sheva', near Beersheba.

In Sarsur's view, Saddam Husayn is the Islamic movement's greatest enemy, who murdered thousands of the movement's members in Iraq. At the same time, "the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has made it clear to the leaders of the 22 Arab countries that their reign is unsafe and that they must, therefore, unite. It serves the cause of the Islamic movement, which aspires to establish a united Islamic nation instead of settling for one divided into 22 separate countries in our region. The Muslims must inspire the entire world to develop and become strong; they must guide and lead, instead of being led." [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew, in a page 6 report by Sulayman al- Shafa'i, Fayiz 'Abbas, and Mikhal Qedem, states: "The Arab Democratic Party, under the leadership of Knesset Member 'Abd-al- Wahab Darawshah, yesterday passed a resolution endorsing the annexation of Kuwait to Iraq. The political bureau members, who convened in Nazareth for a debate on the situation, passed the resolution unanimously. 'The unification of Iraq and Kuwait is the beginning of the unification of the Arab world,' the resolution stated.

["The party sharply denounced the foreign intervention in a domestic Arab affair and called on the United States to withdraw its troops from Saudi Arabia.

["The bureau members urged 'the Arab nation to end the Iraqi- Kuwaiti conflict without bloodshed,' and the Israeli Government to abstain from intervening in the conflict. This was the first Israeli Arab party to have expressed support for the Iraqi president's move."

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 12 August reports: "The mufti of Jerusalem, Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami, has called on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to liberate Muslim holy places in Saudi Arabia. In a letter to Saddam, the mufti also urges Iraq—in his words—to remove the dirty American Army and its collaborators from Saudi Arabia and to purify the holy Islamic land from those impure American armies."]

## More Demonstrations in Territories 14 Aug

*TA1508104990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Aug 90 p 10*

[Report by Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs]

[Excerpts] The Gaza Military Court yesterday sentenced Mahmud Abu-Samra, 37, to a second term of life imprisonment for setting up a cell to attack a leading Israeli personality, belonging to Fatah, and ordering the murder of persons they suspected of cooperating with the authorities, drug users, and others who acted "immorally," the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] said. [passage omitted]

In the West Bank yesterday, expressions of support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn continued with a march of 300 in the Nabulus casbah led by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists wearing black hoods with green headbands. Earlier in the day, Defense Minister Moshe Arens briefly visited the town's casbah.

A source in Nabulus said that, "Palestinians are glued to their radio sets, listening to the news every hour and talking about nothing except Saddam and Kuwait."

Demonstrations in al-Duhayshah refugee camp south of Bethlehem reviled Egyptian President Husni Mubarak as "a pig" and "collaborator with Shamir," sources reported. Others shouted, "The intifada is with you, Iraq."

In 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus, Hamas supporters shouted, "War against the American crusaders," and "No to dialogue, yes to the sound of guns."

Smaller demonstrations were reported in Kifl Harith and Biddiya, villages close to the Trans-Samaria highway which links several Jewish settlements.

One person was reported wounded when stones and metal bars were thrown at local cars near the Damiya Bridge. Palestinian sources said they did not know who had thrown the stones that injured Adi Zikawy, 45, in the head. He was taken to Rafadiyah Hospital in Nablus. The IDF had no report on the incident.

In various locations in the Gaza Strip, demonstrators marched waving PLO flags and carrying posters of Saddam. In Gaza, 250 youths gathered and clashed with border policemen in Palestine Square. Four were arrested for stone throwing. Masked youths also marched in Dayr al-Balah and al-Nusayrat refugee camps to show support for Saddam.

### Gas Mask Distribution Possible Under 'Alert'

*TA0908075890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Aug 90 p 2*

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv—The defence establishment is not planning an immediate mass distribution of gas masks now, even though sources would not rule out the possibility of an Iraqi attack on Israel.

"The developments in the Gulf have not changed our policy," an authoritative military source told THE JERUSALEM POST. The masks will be distributed only on an "immediate, specific, intelligence alert."

No such alert has been sounded so far, and the fact that there have been no unusual Iraqi movements near its border with Jordan might indicate that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is not contemplating anything in the immediate future. But the sources said it was difficult to predict Husayn's actions.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has an ample supply of masks, self-administered anti-gas injections and anti-gas powders for the entire population. These include special containers for babies and "space masks" for children. All are kept in hundreds of storehouses around the country.

The current contingency plan provides that in an emergency, the public will be informed over TV, radio, billboards, and mobile loudspeakers where to get the masks. Crash courses will be given on their use.

The decision not to distribute the equipment now reflects the army's fear that Israel's one million families will not take proper care of it and that it would not be in usable shape if and when an attack was launched.

The fear of early distribution stems from a 1979 test in which some people used the masks in masquerades and some farmers used them while driving tractors to keep out the dust, former Chief Civil Defence Officer Brigadier General (ret.) Aharon Vardi said.

By holding on to the masks, the IDF can take good care of them. The masks need to be replaced every 15 years and the injections, every five or six years.

Supporters of early distribution argue that in the past few years the public has become concerned with the dangers of a chemical attack. Checks in Shelomi and Ramat Hasharon have shown that the population does take care of the masks. Meanwhile, the army is planning distribution only in Tel Aviv and Zefat before deciding on its next move. Distribution in those cities will begin in the winter.

### Subcommittee Acts on Problems of Soviet Immigrants

*TA1308170790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] Approximately 80,000 Jews have immigrated from the USSR to Israel since the beginning of the year. This was reported by our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh. Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz said today that the problem of the elderly and single immigrants is currently the toughest. He claims that 15 percent of the Soviet immigrants are senior citizens.

An Aliyah Cabinet subcommittee decided today to implement a series of measures to help absorb the senior citizens. Thus, mobile homes will be moved to the various government-run old-age homes all over the country. Additionally, the option of converting two-star hotels into hostels for senior citizens is being examined. The cabinet also recommends that every family that absorbs an elderly immigrant receive about 3,200 shekels a year for five years from the Immigrant Absorption Ministry. Another recommendation was that every contractor who builds apartments for new immigrants be obligated by law to build several smaller rental units for elderly people.

### Large Building Projects Planned for Territories

*TA1608071590 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Aug 90 p 11*

[Report by Tzvi Singer and Dani Kipper]

[Text] The Construction and Housing Ministry; the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; and Amana (Gush Emunim's settlement arm) have recently been holding contacts and discussions on large-scale building and development work which is being planned for the Jewish settlements in the territories. This was learned by YEDI'OT AHARONOT yesterday.

A meeting was held in early August between Construction and Housing Ministry officials and representatives of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; Amana; and the Samaria Regional Council. They discussed plans to expand settlements belonging to the Samaria Regional Council. Some of the plans involve the

large-scale building of housing units, others involve preparing the infrastructure and land for construction. The following details were learned by YEDI'OT AHARONOT: —In Qarney Shomron Mizrah, there is an authorized plan to build 500 housing units and large-scale development work. Under the plan, the Construction and Housing Ministry will fund the infrustructure work. The buyers will pay only for the apartment itself and not for the cost of the development work. —In Ginot Shomron, there is a plan to build about 130 housing units, some of them cottages. Several of the planned apartments already have building foundations. There is also an infrastructure for immediate building on 30 plots. There are an additional 90 building sites, some of which will apparently be marketed by the Samaria Development Company. —In Nofim, over 70 building plots have been sold. The Construction and Housing Ministry is funding half of the development costs. —In Zofim, Mekorot [water company] and the Israel Electricity Company have begun wide-scale development work. A master plan for regional planning is in the works.

Nimrod Granit, spokesman for the Construction and Housing Ministry, said: "The Israeli Government's policy on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has not changed. There was building going on in these areas in the past and it is continuing at present.

"As the government has already said many times in the past, the Construction and Housing Ministry settles immigrants in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, in the Galilee, Negev, Wadi 'Ara, and the center of the country. The ministry does not settle immigrants in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip."

The reaction of Uri Ari'el, secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, was: "To our regret, Judaea and Samaria have been discriminated against compared to other areas, and in practice the situation now is worse than in the center of the country. For instance, developers in the center of the country receive commitments on the purchase of 50 to 60 percent of the apartments, while in Judaea and Samaria settlements they do not get such conditions. We do not have any empty apartments at present."

## Prince Hasan Explains Stance on Gulf Crisis

*JN1408213490 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Report on news conference with Crown Prince Hasan by unidentified reporters in Amman; date not specified—recorded]

[Text] [Hasan] As you well aware, Jordan's position, geopolitically, is that of a middle ground position. In this world, you do not choose your neighbors. And as we look westward, of course, Israel, with its continuous statements regarding the possibility of an Arab incursion into Jordanian territory being provocative to the Israelis. [sentence as heard] To our north, again Syria with Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Israel for that matter, all possessors of nonconventional weapons and delivery systems. I think that Jordan's greatest contribution to stability at this time is possibly its democracy, in the sense that the street is clearly—the grassroots—are clearly very well aware of the dangers of the regional situation.

I'd like to say that there are two phases of the situation that has developed: the invasion of Kuwait, which of course evokes in our mind the nonadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war, which we have restated on more than one occasion, and of course evokes in the mind of the general public the fact that there are outstanding situations of such occupation, whether on Palestinian soil or in Lebanon. Secondly, the subject of current security about which you are asking what guarantees, what assurances, I'd just like to say that current security is surely related to basic security. If we can make some progress in terms of the basic security problem—obviously the heavy concentration of troops in the Gulf region—that is obviously through using Jordan's middle-ground position and middle-ground potential and middle-ground role. As you know, we have had contingency arrangements for a long period of time. But at the same time, as we look at the subject of the introduction of ground troops into Saudi Arabia, the question that comes to mind is: Is this a step further than anyone had envisaged?

This last week, of course, saw the international community speaking of sanctions, speaking of embargoes, then speaking of blockades, then movement of troops; everything has moved so fast that the political mandate for the positioning of troops is not entirely clear. It is even said that the positioning of troops may result in a long, drawn-out affair; a new foreign presence in the Gulf. And I think that as we look at the subject of the implementation of sanctions, I think it is easy for others to position navies to give the subject of sanctions some seriousness. But when the positioning of navies moves immediately from sanctions to blockade, and that blockade threatens to affect everyone in the region—including those directly affected by contiguity and by neighboring this situation—I think that it might be worth looking at Article 50 of the United Nations Charter, which I believe the Turkish Government did to make it quite clear any country affected by the sanctions is clearly eligible for compensation.

[Reporter] Your majesty, did you already get offers from other nations—the Western European or U.S. nation—of compensation?

[Hasan] No, we have had no offers of compensation whatsoever. All we have had is a gross misunderstanding of the efforts that we have made to moderate and mediate this issue, and frankly, rather a rough shoulder in terms of even listening to the sequence and chronology of events when we made it quite clear in that weekend immediately after the military action in Kuwait that Jordan was attempting to mediate, that mediation could have involved all the parties concerned at that time—the story which you well know. There was very little response. In fact, the wheels had already been set in motion by the United Nations resolution. And a few days later, that is from Thursday to Tuesday, Desert Shield was already in place. So, the possibility of discussion and dialogue between ourselves and many governments over such practical issues as day-to-day economic requirements of Jordan really taking second place, but we have to do our best to make this point clear.

[Reporter] Are you not afraid that in the end Jordan will find itself sitting between two chairs, because there is really no possibility for you to move, and because you will lose anyway?

[Hasan] Well, I think that when we speak about principle—which is surely of concern to the international community—let us humanize that principle a little bit. The introduction of foreign forces into the region, we are told, is to stand against the acquisition of territory by war. And we have made it very clear over the subject of Palestine and 23 years of occupation that we are opposed to the acquisition of territory by war. We are for self-determination. When we were asked by the British to vote on the principle of self-determiniation and acquisition of territory by war over the Falklands, I asked British officials why it was that the church bells of Jerusalem did not ring as loud as the sheep bells in the Falklands? So, when we talk about falling between two positions, this is something that we have been used to for a very long period of time. It has been rather a cynical view of Jordan that reliable little Jordan is all very well, provided it does not make its sophisticated arguments too loudly.

[Reporter] If there will be a war, on which side will Jordan be? Or will it try to stay neutral?

[Hasan] Well, again as I said, let me remind you that we have neighbors who may decide which side we will have to be on before we can even think about it. Frankly, they said Israel has continuously mentioned its readiness to use Jordanian airspace to intervene, and, frankly, we do find the subject of being taken for granted by all parties—almost being made to feel that we are some kind of an inconvenience—a subject that is clearly making

people in this country feel one and all that if we are so inconvenient to the international community, then we might as well face our destiny. And I do not think that by closing doors on the possibilities of talking to Jordan and Jordanians that the international community is doing itself a great service.

[Reporter] Your highness, one wonders: Is it fair, or logical, or is it really convincing that the whole world now is against Iraq and asking Iraq to implement United Nations resolutions while these very forces have done nothing to implement [Security Council Resolution] 242; they have done nothing to condemn Israel.

[Hasan] Well, in terms of political, logical perceptions, obviously, might is often right, and certainly that as far as the implementation of 242 is concerned, it is rather interesting that we are talking about 23 years of occupation. President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, of course, in 1956 faced a major confrontation with the external forces over the Suez canal. And President 'Abd-al-Nasir survived 1956 and survived 1967. He survived for over 15 years or 14 years, but it is interesting to see that the occupation of Arab territories continues for over 23 years now, and this is the sadness that the world always needs a situation of confrontation. But I wonder whether confrontation should not be using international criteria with all aggressors, and not only with a convenient target at a given moment. And I also wonder why our share of extremists is disproportionate to the share of any other nationality, practically when we look at the world picture. No, I do not think it is fair, I do not think it is logical, but we are not addressing a fair and logical world.

## Editorials View King's U.S. Visit

### AL-RA'Y

*JN1508095990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Aug 90 pp 1, 24*

[Editorial: "Husayn, the Man of Difficult Missions"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Washington in these difficult days in the history of the region and the world comes to affirm that his majesty is still the man of difficult missions and that his position in his nation and the international community permits him to rise to the level of the hopes of this nation and community.

The Middle East in particular and the entire world now seem to be a minefield. Despite this, King Husayn has chosen these difficult days to press ahead with the mission which distinguished him throughout his leadership of Jordan. It is the mission of establishing Arab solidarity and the strongest relations based on mutual trust and respect between our nation and all nations of the international community.

Before the eruption of the Gulf crisis, his majesty King Husayn continued to move between Arab capitals and affirm that there is not a single inter-Arab dispute that cannot be solved. When the crisis erupted, the king adopted a stand which served as a link acceptable to all parties to the crisis without the least retraction from Jordan's national, pan-Arab, and human principles. Therefore, his visit to Washington and his meeting with President George Bush and senior U.S. Administration officials might be the awaited opportunity for a profound, sincere, and fruitful dialogue which would spare the region a devastating explosion which will not serve any party and will only lead to real disaster for the progress of the region and the world. King Husayn, who the day before yesterday was in Baghdad will be in Washington today, has chosen a difficult mission, which will not remain so if the Americans open their minds to facts, take an unbaised stand on the roots of the Gulf crisis and its escalation and consequences without being influenced by any party which rejects balanced U.S.-Arab relations and mutual concern for the rights of the Arab people and their role in the world, and without Washington considering what the enemies of security, stability, and progess propose in the region as the sole truth.

In view of this, the Arabs and those concerned for security, peace, and stability in the world continue to follow King Husayn's visit to Washington. This is the opportunity which will mark the beginning of a new, long stage in other peoples' dealing with our region as a part of the world which, like others, must have the right to advance and develop as well as a role to end the cold war.

Warships, guns, and tanks can destroy, but they cannot build. They can deepen hostilities, but they cannot establish love and friendship between peoples. Therefore, King Husayn, who is now standing between two trenches, is the focus of the attention of the millions in this region and the world who hope that bridges not trenches will be established between nations. It is certain that Baghdad is interested in this subject and Washington should give an opportunity for mutual concern.

Greetings to King Husayn, the man of difficult missions.

### AL-RA'Y

*JN1608104090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Aug 90 pp 1, 18*

[Editorial: "Life Buoy"]

[Text] The meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and President Bush today is a rare opportunity which his majesty has chosen to give to Washington to change its attitude toward the rapid events in the Gulf area by adopting a stand based on reason and a real desire to restore stability to the region rather than rushing behind violent measures which only add fuel to the fire, further destabilize the region, and expose it to a terrible conflagration.

There is no doubt that tackling events calmly, rather than in the arrogant and haughty Kissingerite style of crisis management, is very crucial for safeguarding the region, especially since U.S. actions have already exceeded the hasty UN Security Council resolution stipulating economic sanctions on Iraq by imposing a

blockade which has so far not been sanctioned by any Security Council resolution.

If the U.S. method of handling the Gulf crisis has already led to a one to five-percent drop in U.S. economic growth, as admitted by western economists themselves over the BBC, and to a drop in French economic growth, and also placed Japan and other major industrial powers in a critical situation, a further escalation of this dangerous method is bound to lead to more serious results, not only for the Gulf area and the Arab region but also to wider areas, including the West itself. It might even create a major world economic shock. Therefore, the opportunity given to the U.S. Administration to handle the Gulf crisis wisely should be viewed as a lifebuoy, which everyone must hang onto in order to save the region from a situation which could become uncontrollable and extremely grave.

Many international crises took years to tackle. We do not mean of course that the Gulf crisis should be left untackled for a long time. We only mean that adequate time should be given to resolve the crisis by diplomatic and peaceful means rather than by armed threats, especially when they are part of a scenario to enable foreign powers to dominate Arab oil, resources, land, and people. Such scenarios are outdated. They can no longer be applied on the ground without a bloody conflict, turning oil into fuel for a fire which might be difficult to put out.

So, it is better for the U.S. Administration to clearly understand the message of the Iraqi-Iranian reconciliation which was proposed by Baghdad and accepted by Tehran. It is a positive message which, if carefully studied by Washington, will lead above all to stability in the Gulf area. The message also tells us that even the most complicated problems can be resolved in the end.

Washington is called upon to seize the real opportunity presented by King Husayn by his meeting with President Bush. It would be possible through such an opportunity to tackle the crisis rationally and responsibly. It will also be possible to find a viable solution which understands all viewpoints and safeguards all legitimate rights in a manner that contributes toward healing the wounds and enabling the region to live in true stability rather than in bloodshed and denial of its right to its resources.

## SAWT AL-SHA'B

*JN1508144490 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Aug 90 Second Edition pp 1, 13*

[Editorial: "Al-Husayn Continues Movement Under the Gloomiest Circumstances]

[Text] Despite all the tension and the extremely volatile situation in which the United States has placed the region through flagrant interference in its affairs, and despite continued efforts to get the international community to issue resolutions through the Security Council by resorting to blackmail and pressure, our Arab nation, represented by some of its leaders, believe that U.S. hegemony, weight, and motives should not prevent the search for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, or prevent those who believe in this nation's independence and right to a free, honorable life from moving quickly on all levels—including the United States itself.

Hence, the new move—which was made by His Majesty King Husayn after the United States closed all doors to Arab action with the resolutions of the recent summit conference in Cairo—will continue on the international level. His majesty began the move in Iraq, where he met with President Saddam Husayn. He also contacted Arab leaders who backed the U.S. interference and condemned Iraq in order to acquaint himself with their views and positions.

His Majesty King Husayn will also meet with U.S. President George Bush and Western officials to speak on behalf of the Arab leaders with whom he had met.

His Majesty King Husayn's move is viewed as a serious Arab attempt to confront the U.S. hegemony, support the Arab nation's will, and tell the Americans and the whole world that our region, which was not given a chance by the imperialist forces to deal with the crisis, is able to deal with its own problems and to respond to the confusing, suspect, and false allegations.

Multinational fleets, warships, and warplanes belonging to the United States and its allies cannot solve the problem. On the contrary, if they clash with Iraq, they will deal a blow to the interests on many international sides and pose a serious threat that will go beyond the region's borders.

The United States learned lessons similar to the one it is facing today, and the results always contradicted what it believed. The U.S. return to the region with a heavy stick indicates that it has not learned the lesson well. This region wants peace, calls for it, and aspires to its prevalence in the region, now that the world has ended the cold war and eliminated its problems.

## Foreigners Continue To Cross Border From Iraq

*JN1508072690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 90 p 4*

[By Nur al-Sati]

[Text] Amman—Hundreds of Arabs, Asians, Africans, East Europeans and Latin Americans arrived in Jordan across the border from Iraq Tuesday [14 August] while uncertainty continued over when and how Iraq intended to permit Western Europeans and North Americans to leave, officials said.

A total of 1,750 people, about one third of them Arabs—Egyptians, Sudanese, Yemenis, Lebanese, Syrians, Saudi Arabians and one Algerian—and the rest Asians, Eastern Europeans and Latin Americans—Filipinos, Indians, Pakistanis, Thais, Yugoslavs, Chileans and others—had

crossed by late Tuesday afternoon, official sources said. "There are hundreds more coming," commented one official.

In the meantime, a group of about 280 Indians—210 of them from a group of 700 pilgrims visiting Iraq when Baghdad sent its army across the border to Kuwait and the rest who found their own way to Jordan from Kuwait—was flown home Tuesday evening aboard an Air India Boeing 747.

Two other similar chartered planes are expected to arrive here this week to airlift rest of the pilgrim group and others who may reach Amman on their own from Iraq, embassy officials said.

Mounting anxiety at the possibility of war has escalated worries over India's 180,000 expatriates remaining in Kuwait and Iraq, says the Indian civil aviation minister, Arif Khan, who arrived in Amman on Monday. The purpose of Khan's visit was to hold talks with officials and his Jordanian counterpart to find ways of facilitating travel for his people. Though Khan was unable to provide a figure of how many were expected to leave, he said that he did not expect a large number of Indian expatriates to leave Iraq or Kuwait. "Our main concern is for the women and children," Khan said.

The result of the meetings in Jordan was that the Kingdom would extend all facilities and assistance to Indians transiting through Jordan, including the waiver of visa requirements.

The Philippine ambassador to Jordan, Pacifico Castro, said a group of 550 Filipinos were gathered in Amman to take flights out Wednesday and Friday aboard special Philippines airways flights. "We have another 60,000 of our nationals in Kuwait and Iraq, and we are arranging for their flights home in the next few weeks," he told the Jordan Times.

## Hasan, Indian Minister Discuss Transit Issues

*JN1608072590 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1414 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received at the Royal Court this afternoon Mohammad Arif Khan, Indian minister of civil aviation.

His royal highness briefed the Indian minister on the developments in the region in light of the Gulf crisis, expressing Jordan's readiness to work for a peaceful solution to the crisis, and to the other disputes in the Middle East. His royal highness also warned against the results of foreign military presence on Arab and Islamic lands.

The Indian minister expressed thanks to Jordan for the arrangements made to receive Indians returning from Kuwait, pointing out that there are 17,000 Indians in Kuwait who wish to return to their country via Jordan.

His royal highness the crown prince promised the visiting minister that Jordan will take the necessary measures to receive the Indians and to ensure their return to their country.

The meeting was attended by the transport minister and the Indian ambassador in Amman.

## Egyptian Envoy Denies Mistreatment of Egyptians

*JN1508150390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Mr. Ramzi 'Allam, Egyptian minister plenipotentiary and charge d'affaires in Amman, has denied reports published by the Egyptian paper AL-WAFD yesterday, which claim that the Jordanian authorities have been mistreating Egyptians returning from Iraq and Kuwait. Mr. 'Allam asserted that these reports are groundless and contradict the facts. There are envoys of the Egyptian Embassy and Interior Ministry currently present at Jordanian ports of entry to immediately take action on issues pertaining to Egyptians' travel documents and to deal with various problems on the spot. He also asserted that these envoys have received the total cooperation of the Jordanian authorities, especially in regard to the good reception and treatment of the Egyptians returning through these ports of entry.

The Egyptian charge d'affaires thanked the Jordanian Interior Ministry and the Public Security Department for their total cooperation with the Egyptian Embassy in Jordan.

He also appealed to Egyptian writers to seek accuracy and objectivity in their reports, so as to maintain the good relations between the two brotherly peoples in Egypt and Jordan.

## French Envoy Meets Hasan, Discusses Crisis

*JN1508214690 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] His Higness Crown Prince Hasan received at the Royal Court this afternoon Mr. Jean-Francois Poncet, envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand, who conveyed to his highness the French position on the Gulf crisis.

His highness the crown prince explained to the French envoy the latest developments in the region in view of this crisis, asserting Jordan's willingness to work for a political solution to this crisis and the rest of the disputes in the Middle East.

His highness also emphasized the importance of giving a chance to peaceful options and diplomatic offices, asserting the importance of resolving the Gulf crisis through the Arab family.

### Islamist Party Announces Pro-Iraqi Stance

*JN1508071790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 90 p 3*

[By Maryam Shahin]

[Text] Amman—A new phase in Jordan's democratic experience began unfolding Tuesday, [14 August] when the underground, and previously outlawed Islamic al-Tahrir party (Liberation Party) announced its pro-Iraq and anti-foreign intervention stand during a press conference.

Al-Tahrir, which does not recognise the legitimacy of any of the Arab World's 21 governments, decided to "go public" and give further clout to the anti-foreign intervention stand which has been espoused by the Jordanian government and people almost unanimously, observers noted.

"It is the duty of all Muslim rulers to mobilise their armies immediately and fight the foreign armies which have come to the region," 'Ata Abu-al-Rashtah, the groups official spokesman told the press.

"If rulers hesitate to take such moves at this time, it is the duty of every Muslim to 'force' his ruler to take such action," Abu-al-Rashtah added.

A party statement, made available to the press last week, had said that "any aggression on any Islamic country makes it imperative for all Muslim countries to fight the aggressor." Abu-al-Rashtah also called for breaking diplomatic relations with any country (foreign or non-Muslim), that moves troops into or attacks any Muslim country.

He said that any Muslim ruler who asks non-Muslims to intervene in an inter-Muslim affair is committing a "terrible and unforgivable crime. [quotation mark as published] "To order Muslim troops to serve alongside foreign troops in the event of a war with another Muslim nation is "even more unforgivable," Abu-al-Rashtah said. [quotation marks as published]

The spokesman referred to the unity of Iraq and Kuwait as a "positive" step in that it united two Muslim lands and in line with one of the declared aims of the group to unite all Muslim state.

"The Liberation Party," said Abu-al-Rashtah, "does not support any ruler in the Muslim lands, because none of the ruler have adopted Islam as a complete way of life."

"However, the party supports any steps to unify Muslim lands, even when they are carried out by rulers of whom we do not approve," said Abu-al-Rashtah.

In line with the concept of having one united Muslim country the party spokesman said that the wealth and resources of Muslim countries "belongs to all people in all Muslim countries."

Referring to the "Arab nation," Abu-al-Rashtah said that "this nation will free itself from those who ask for help from imperialist forces."

During introductory remarks the spokesman said that imperialist powers had divided the Arab-Muslim nation into separate states which espoused secularist ideals rather than Islamic ones and kept them weak and dependent on the imperialist powers.

Abu-al-Rashtah said the insolence of the imperialist powers such as America, Britain and France was not acceptable to all the Muslim people.

The party has been working underground since its founders split from the Muslim Brotherhood movement in 1953 and Tuesday's press conference was the first public appearance of the group's spokesman in Jordan.

The party advocates the establishment of one Muslim nation and the restoration of the caliphate system.

Asked if despite its rejection of the legitimacy of the current governments in the Arab world, the party would support those governments who stood against foreign intervention, the party spokesman said that although the party's basic position towards the existing governments had not changed, the current threat of foreign troops in the region was the most urgent and pressing issue.

### Senate Hopes Iran Responds to Iraq Plan

*JN1508140690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Mr. Ahmad al-Lawzi, the Senate president, sent two cables today to Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, and Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on the recent Iraqi peace initiative.

Mr. al-Lawzi expressed, in his name and on behalf of the Senate members, the hope that this initiative will be the cornerstone for reestablishing brotherhood and cooperation and the unity of the viewpoints of Iraq and Iran against foreign intervention. He also expressed hope that this initiative would receive the response of the Iranian leadership and people.

### High Demand for Foreign Exchange, Cash Reported

*JN1508064690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Aug 90 p 1*

[Text] Amman—Despite assurances by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), fears of a military conflagration in the Gulf are continuing to cause panic buying of foreign currency in the local market, banks are reporting sizeable withdrawals, according to officials and banking sources.

The Jordanian dinar lost as much as 15 per cent of its value against the dollar in the black market in the past week, according to the sources. The American currency was quoted at 775 fils in the black market Tuesday [14 August] while the officially set CBJ rate was 657.0/661.0. On Aug. 1, one day before the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, there was a difference of only few fils between the CBJ rate and the black market, banking sources noted.

"There is a high demand for foreign exchange in Jordan and in the Gulf," said economist Jawad al-'Anani. "This is called cash preference because people want to carry money in their pockets for fear of bank closures due to the crisis."

Al-'Anani explained that because of links between Jordan and the Gulf states, the supply of the dollar had declined with the growing demand in the Gulf.

"Cash has become the dearest commodity in here and in the Gulf," he told the Jordan Times. "This is always the case in periods of instability. We witnessed the same during the 1967 and 1973 wars."

According to reports from the Gulf, most people have dropped gold as the means to hold on to their savings at times of crisis and are now opting for foreign currency, mostly European.

A private businessman and a former moneychanger, Muti' al-Kabariti, attributed the run on bank deposits and rush for dollars in Jordan to fears that the Arab states might cut their financial assistance to the Kingdom and a possible blockade of the port of al-'Aqabah as part of the international embargo and blockade against Iraq.

"There is a feeling that Arab aid will be reduced if not cut altogether," al-Kabariti told the Jordan Times. "There are also fears of a suspension in export to Iraq if Jordan were to implement in full the international sanctions against Baghdad," he said.

Contrary to pledge made by the CBJ last week to supply sufficient foreign currency to meet local needs, commercial banks were unable to provide any foreign currency even for travel and study purposes for which foreign currency supply is guaranteed, according to banking sources.

"Usually banks do not keep much foreign exchange in cash," said a senior official commenting on the unavailability of foreign currency. "Banks are under no obligation to sell foreign exchange to their clients except upon availability. Otherwise they could give them cheques or transfer their deposits wherever they wanted as long as they complied with regulations," he told the Jordan Times.

[JORDAN TIMES in English on 16 August publishes the following "clarification": In the story, "Rush for U.S. Dollars, Withdrawals Continues," which appeared in the JORDAN TIMES issue of Aug. 15, 1990, a senior official was quoted as saying that "banks are under no obligation to sell foreign exchange...except upon availability. Otherwise they could have [as published] them (customers) cheques or transfer their foreign currency deposits..."The statement should have made clear that banks are under no obligation to give clients hard currency banknotes. Banks are obliged to give foreign exchange transfers and cheques in accordance with Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) regulations."]

The official said there was no fear of a shortage in Jordanian dinars because banks have surplus liquidity deposits and could cover any amount of withdrawals. Arab Bank officials said that depositors withdrew JD 5 million Thursday, mostly in cash in an apparent bid to protect their savings.

Uncertainty in the region has also shaken the Amman Financial Market where stocks have dropped by as much as 25 to 50 per cent since Aug. 2

"The market experienced a plummet in stock prices," said Dr. 'Abdallah al-Maliki, president of the Association of Jordanian Banks. "Industry related stocks dropped the most because much of industry is linked to Iraq," he said.

## 'Tens of Thousands' Volunteer To Defend Saddam

*NC1308125290 Paris AFP in English 1217 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] Amman, Aug 13 (AFP)—Jordanians by the tens of thousands are signing up to defend Iraqi President Saddam Husayn against "the new Crusaders" seen as threatening the Arab world.

Some 80,000 Jordanians, outraged at the deployment of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, have volunteered to fight alongside the Iraqi army if Iraq is attacked, a group representing the volunteers said here Monday.

The Popular Jordanian Committee to Support the Iraqi Arab People said conscription offices had been opened recently in Amman and elsewhere in Jordan and that an average of 10,000 volunteers a day had been signing up in the past two days alone. The committee includes legislators and heads of trade associations.

The announcement came amid rising tension in the Gulf sparked by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2 and after Jordan abstained from an Arab League vote last week denouncing Baghdad for the operation.

The League resolution also called for the deployment of Arab troops in Saudi Arabia, which the United States maintains is now threatened by Iraqi forces in neighboring Kuwait.

The volunteer movement was spurred by a U.S. decision last week to deploy air and ground forces in Saudi Arabia, denounced by militants here as "new Crusaders from the West on Arab soil."

At the same time the United States, France, Britain, Australia and Canada have taken steps to bolster their naval presence in the Gulf.

In the gathering tension, Jordan's King Husayn on Sunday ordered that civil defense and first aid centers be set up in residential neighborhoods nationwide. The king also warned that the Gulf crisis had "reached, with the formidable military buildup, the threshhold... of an all-out explosion."

In a televised speech, the king stresed "Arab refusal of any (foreign) hegemony" over the Gulf and said Jordan remained determined to find "an Arab solution" to the crisis.

Jordanian forces—numbering over 85,000 troops—have been on a state of partial alert since the Iraqi invasion and leave for all officers has been suspended.

While glued to their radios and televisions, Jordanians have also been stocking up on basics such as rice, sugar and oil, despite daily media appeals for calm. The three commodities have all but vanished from food store shelves.

While not specifically mentioning rationing, King Husayn said in his speech that "under the circumstances, it is essential that usual consumption habits be changed and rationalized."

The tense atmosphere is fuelled by wild rumors, such as a report Sunday in some circles that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had died. The news was greeted in some places by shouts of joy.

At the U.S. Embassy a brief scuffle erupted Sunday between scores of demonstrators carrying anti-American signs and police guarding the compound, witnesses said.

Security has been beefed up around the U.S., Egyptian, Iraqi and Kuwaiti Embassies where vehicles with heavy machine guns surround buildings and police with assault rifles patrol the sidewalks.

On Sunday thousands of Jordanians rallied in Mafrak 70 kilometers (45 miles) northeast of here in support of Iraq, denouncing "American aggression" and the presence of foreign troops in Saudi Arabia. The protest was organized by a committee grouping different political currents, including communists and the increasingly vocal Moslem Brotherhood. Young men wearing white headbands called themselves "Saddam's commandos" and swore they were ready to fight and die for the Iraqi leader.

Earlier, students at Jordan University held two protests where more than 1,000 demonstrators urged the government to order a general mobilization to prepare for a possible Israeli attack.

Israeli military officials have meanwhile charged that Jordan has been working to undermine United Nations-approved economic and military sanctions on Baghdad by allowing supplies to enter Iraq via the Red Sea port of al-'Aqabah.

An official quoted Monday by the Israeli daily Davar said the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah had become Iraq's principal supply point in defiance of an international embargo.

In another development, the Jordanian daily AL-DUSTUR for the first time on Monday referred to King Husayn as "Sharif Husayn," a reference to his direct descendancy from the Prophet Muhammad.

Authoritative sources here said the king, in a closed meeting with political leaders, apparently said royal and other titles were unneeded.

The king is a descendant of the Sharif of Mecca, who during World War I led an Arab revolt and sacrificed his throne in combatting foreign intervention.

### Representative Appointed to UN Geneva Office

*JN1508094590 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] Amman, 13 Aug (PETRA)—A royal decree has been issued approving the Council of Minister's decision to appoint His Excellency al-Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry, as Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nation's European headquarters in Geneva.

### Paper Cites Possibility of Hostage Resolution

*NC1608094290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Well-informed diplomatic sources believe that the developments in the Gulf will result in the solution of the issue of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon. AL-SAFIR today quotes these sources as saying that the developments in the Gulf have placed the hostage issue on the front burner and that secret contacts are taking place in this regard with the capitals concerned, particularly Tehran, and Lebanese and Palestinian parties directly connected with the issue.

The diplomatic sources maintained that the release of Swiss hostage Elio Erriquez constituted the first step in a process which is expected to continue until the file of the hostages is finally closed by the end of this year.

### Fadlallah Urges Muslims To Resist 'U.S. Invasion'

*NC1608091590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has emphasized that the Muslims must strongly resist the U.S. invasion of the Gulf regardless of their attitude toward Saddam Husayn.

In an interview with AFP and LE FIGARO, his eminence said that the issue has transcended the actions of the Iraqi regime because there is a direct U.S. occupation of the region under an international and Arab umbrella. He added that everyone, but Arabs in particular, must resist this invasion by all means. Ayatollah Fadlallah pointed out that Saddam Husayn's recent resort to Islamic slogans indicates that these slogans are ingrained in the people's lives and in the issue of freedom. He said that when Saddam opposed these slogans, he was actually opposing this reality. His eminence asserted that Iraq's incursion was not planned by the United States, but it was inspired by it. He said: Iraq understood from this inspiration that there would be no objection to this incursion. The United States then prevented the Arab summit from convening until it completed its plans and imposed a new fait accompli. The summit then convened and gave an Arab veneer to this fait accompli. What has been said by the media about a possible Iraqi attack against Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] was intended to enable the United States to complete its plans and embroil the region in the U.S. activity.

Ayatollah Fadlallah said that the main goal of the United States is to shake up the regimes in the Gulf and then wait for developments whereby these regimes, which can no longer protect U.S. interests, are replaced by regimes that are democratic in form and able to protect the oil.

### 'Awn's Forces Reportedly on 'Top Alert'

*NC1508130790 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1245 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Citing security sources, REUTER says that General 'Awn has placed his forces on top alert in the wake of reports that the Lebanese Army under the command of General Emile Lahhud intends to carry out a military action to recapture B'abda and al-Yarzah.

'Awn units had renewed their machine gun attacks on the Lebanese Forces' positions in the Olivetti area at noon today.

### Gulf Crisis Blamed for Worsening Exchange Rate

*NC1408054490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] In a statement following a meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil said that the deterioration in the exchange rate of the Lebanese pound is due to the confusion in the financial market caused by events in the Gulf, which, he said, have choked the flow of hard currency to Lebanon.

Minister al-Khalil expressed the belief that the measures the governnment is to take will help the Central Bank and the monetary authorities cope with the situation. He added that there is no cause for panic in the financial market.

### Israelis Reinforce Armor in South 9 Aug

*NC0908071190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Aug 90*

[Text] Israeli enemy forces have brought armored reinforcements into al-'Ayshiyah and Kafr Huna via al-Khardali road in the South. Security sources said that these reinforcements consisted of seven vehicles and ammunition transporters.

In another development, according to security reports, an Israeli military jet plane raided training targets opposite Ra's al-Naqurah, approximately one kilometer from the Lebanese coast.

Lahd's militia positions in Zummarayya, Shwayya, and 'Ayn Qinya fired flares over the confrontation line north of Hasbayya at dawn yesterday. Kawkaba, al-Siddanah, Zaghlah, and al-Birah were illuminated. The positions held by the militia also fired machine gun fire at Mimis sector, al-Jabal al-Wastani and al-Birah in the eastern sector. An Israeli force combed al-Wazzani, al-Majidiyah, and Halta lines.

### Stage 'Mock' Raids

*NC0908165290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 9 Aug 90*

[Text] Intermittent clashes in which medium-caliber machine guns and rockets are being used are continuing between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier while conducting mock raids over Iqlim al-Tuffah. The planes drew antiaircraft fire.

### Hizballah Repulses Amal-Palestinian Attack

*NC1008075890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 10 Aug 90*

[Text] In Iqlim al-Tuffah, the gangs of Amal and 'Arafat attempted to advance toward Tallah Hamadah at 0220 today, under cover of artillery and rocket fire. They were confronted by the mujahidin of the Islamic resistance, who repulsed the attempt.

### Blast in B'abda Palace Injures Woman

*NC1208111790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1053 GMT 12 Aug 90*

[Text] According to security sources, an explosion took place at the courtyard of B'abda Presidential Palace at 1155 today, as General Michel 'Awn was addressing a misguided group of demonstrators that assembled in the courtyard to protest the siege imposed on the areas under 'Awn's control. The sources say that the blast was caused by an explosive charge hidden in a soft drink bottle placed on top of the earth covering the air coolers of B'abda palace. A woman was injured in the blast and taken to the hospital for treatment.

### 'Awn Units Investigate Blast

*NC1308054590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] 'Awn's gunmen directed machine gun and rocket fire, in addition to a number of artillery shells, at the combat lines extending from Salome to Galerie al-Ittihad between 0030 and 0100 last night.

An explosion also occurred shortly after 2330 in the Olivetti area, damaging only property.

Meanwhile General 'Awn's units are continuing to investigate the cause of the blast on the grounds of B'abda Palace yesterday while 'Awn was delivering a speech to demonstrators in which he denounced the blockading of the area under his control. The blast was caused by the explosion of a detonator hidden in a soft drink bottle which had been placed over the B'abda Palace air conditioning system. The explosion wounded a woman.

'Awn's radio station admitted the explosion but alleged it had been caused by the heat. Panic, anxiety, and restlessness followed the blast. This compelled Gen. 'Awn to bring his speech quickly to an end.

### Fire at Beirut Areas

*NC1308122990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] 'Awn's units directed light- and medium-caliber machine gun fire at the al-Nab'ah and Sinn al-Fil areas shortly after midday today. A girl was seriously wounded when she was hit by a 12.7-mm bullet.

### Amal Attacks Lahd Position; Israelis Maneuver

*NC1308054890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] A military source in Amal Movement has declared that an Amal group attacked the Bayt Yahun checkpoint manned by Lahd militiamen. In the ensuing 15-minute clash, two militiamen were wounded. The group returned safely to base.

Soon afterward, Israeli enemy forces raked the area and neighboring fields with automatic weapons and rockets to rescue the position.

Occupation forces also dispatched tanks and amored vehicles to al-Majidiyah camp in the past 48 hours. They fired 1000 flares over Tibnin area in the central sector.

The Israeli forces conducted maneuvers with live ammunition in the Yarin-Marwahin plain, in which tanks, jet fighter planes, and helicopters participated. Meanwhile, gunboats appeared off the al-Naqurah-Tyre coast.

## Reportage on Fighting in Iqlim Al-Tuffah

### Hizballah Reportedly Shells Area

*NC1208134790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Aug 90*

[Text] An Amal Movement military source has stated that Dayr al-Zahrani was subjected to fire from 107-mm rocket launchers from Hizballah positions in 'Ayn Bu Siwar at noon today. The same source added that Hizballah caused the situation to flare up along the Kafr Milki combat line when Hizballah gunmen bombarded the Hamadi ridges with 82-mm mortars. Furthermore, Hizballah gunmen shelled Kafr Hatta and Jarnya with mortar fire this morning. The townships of 'Arab Salim and Kafar Hatta came under shellfire from Hizballah positions.

Meanwhile, an Amal Movement military source said that a unit attacked an agent Lahd position in Bayt Yahun this morning. A clash ensued between the Amal fighters and the agents for 15 minutes, leaving two agents wounded. The Amal fighters managed to return safely to base. Shortly afterward, the Israeli enemy raked the region and nearby fields.

### Clashes, Israeli Shelling 13 Aug

*NC1308193090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] Noticeable tension prevails on Iqlim al-Tuffah fronts following clashes this afternoon. The fighting left two people wounded and damaged a number of houses.

In another development, Bra'shit, in the central sector of southern Lebanon, came under Israeli artillery fire this afternoon. Ihab Nuwasi was seriously wounded and taken to the Tibnin hospital. The shelling also damaged four houses in the village.

### Amal, Hizballah Clash 14 Aug

*NC1408113690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] Intermittent clashes involving rockets and automatic weapons are taking place between positions held by the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Violent clashes, interspersed with attack and infiltration operations, took place earlier this morning. Artillery shellfire reached areas far from the battlefronts.

As a result of the shelling on 'Arab Salim, two citizens were slightly wounded and taken to the 'Ala' al-Din Hospital in al-Sarafand for treatment.

A military source in the Amal Movement accused Hizballah of launching an attack on the al-Sakhriyah hill at approximately 0900 this morning, after using 120-mm and 107-mm artillery to shell the towns of Kafr Hatta, Kafr Bayt, and Jurnaya and the Hamadah hill.

In a statement at noon today, the Amal source said that the attacking gunmen were caught in Amal's advance ambushes. The attack was foiled and the attackers sustained heavy losses.

The source added: Afterward, the villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah, especially 'Arab Salim, Sarba, and Kafr Hatta and the Hamadah and al-Sakhriyah hills came under violent 120-mm and 82-mm artillery shelling.

### One Killed, Two Wounded in Shelling

*NC1608111090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Clashes involving the use of various automatic weapons, artillery, and rockets have been continuing on the combat lines of Iqlim al-Tuffah since dawn today. The clashes are concentrated on the Jarju', 'Arab Salim, and Kafr Milki combat lines. The shelling extended to other villages, leaving one person dead and two wounded. The casualties were taken to the al-Ra'i Hospital in Sidon.

### Amal, Hizballah Clash in Suburb; One Killed

*NC1508135990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1315 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Clashes occurred between Hizballah and Amal members in Hayy Mu'awwad in Beirut's Southern Suburb at 1315 today. One person was killed and another injured in the fighting. The Syrian forces promptly contained the clashes.

### PFLP-GC Official Hurt in 'Accidental' Blast

*NC1508164890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] According to security sources, a grenade exploded inside the car of an official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command [PFLP-GC]. The driver was killed and the official and an aide were injured. The sources added that they believe that the explosion was an accident and not planned.

### Two Die; Mosad Blamed

*JN1508213990 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] The Political Bureau and the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command mourn to the masses of our Palestinian people members of the front, martyrs Muhammad Husayn al-Baytham, Abu al-Qahir; and Jasim Hammad al-Humud, Abu 'Amir, who were martyred this morning when a boobytrapped car went off in west Beirut.

In a statement today, the front accused the Mosad apparatus and its hirelings of perpetrating this grotesque crime and affirmed that this dastardly act will not break our determination to escalate armed struggle against the Zionist enemy and its agents on the basis of liberating the entire Palestinian national soil.

### Israeli, Resistance Activity in South Reported

*NC1608062990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] According to a security source, clashes involving the use of various types of automatic weapons, artillery, and rockets took place on the Jarju' and Kafr Milki fronts in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Shells fell on the villages of Jurnaya and Kafr Bayt, the al-Sakhriyah and Hamadah hills, and 'Arab al-Jali.

Meanwhile, reports from the south indicate that the Israeli forces have been massing armored vehicles and tanks in the western sector of the occupied border strip over the past 24 hours. The Israeli forces took up positions in al-Bayyadah, Shihin, Tayr Harfah, and Yarin. The occupation authorities installed a sophisticated military radar station on al-Bayyadah hill, near Tyre, overlooking the sea.

The occupation forces have intensified their military activity in the past hours. Military aircraft carried out repeated flights over most areas in the south, dropping more than 100 flares over Sidon, al-Rashidiyah, and the area adjacent to the central sector. Israeli gunboats also opened fire during naval maneuvers off the Ra's al-'Ayn-al-Rashidiyah coast.

A resistance group detonated an explosive charge near an enemy patrol on a military road leading to the Israeli occupation forces' position on Bra'shit hill. The militia radio admitted the operation, saying that a force combed the area and found another charge which was defused.

An Israeli force advanced about three km into the liberated area from its position on the (Saddani) axis and carried out a raking operation in the Shab'a fields and (Jin'um) area.

### Units Reportedly Being Recalled From Lebanon

*NC1308162690 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] Beirut, Aug 13 (AFP)—Units of the Syrian army stationed in Lebanon have been recalled to Syria ahead of plans by Damascus to send troops to the Gulf, reliable sources said here Monday. Witnesses meanwhile said that Syrian troops were seen Monday leaving mostly Muslim West Beirut and the al-Shuf mountains south-east of the capital in convoys of armoured vehicles. But neither the reliable sources nor the witnesses were able to say how many troops were involved in these operations and the Syrian military command in Beirut was unreachable for confirmation.

Earlier, an influential newspaper close to both Syrian and Muslim circles said that Syria had decided to send a "symbolic force" to Saudi Arabia in keeping with an Arab League resolution endorsed Friday by 12 of the League's 20 members.

AL-SAFIR newspaper, citing an unnamed senior Syrian official, said the decision underlines a Syrian wish to give the Arabs a role in any settlement of the Gulf crisis triggered by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

The semi-official Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM said over the weekend that Syria would send troops to Saudi Arabia and President Husni Mubarak, whose country has committed troops to the Gulf, later hinted that Damascus would join an Arab force.

Syria has not denied or confirmed any of these reports. Damascus was among the 12 Arab states to approve the deployment of an Arab force in the Gulf.

### State Vows To Prevent Foreign Intervention

*NC1408151490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] Concerning the Arab military deployment in Saudi Arabia, in implementation of the Cairo summit resolutions, the London-based newspaper AL-HAYAH cites Syrian official sources as saying that the Syrian force, which has begun arriving in the Arab Gulf, will take up its positions soon. This force will be effective enough to enjoy the credibility that its task requires.

The Syrian sources denied that the Arab force has any relation to the U.S. forces deployed in the region. The sources said that the major aim of the Arab force is to prevent U.S. military intervention in the Iraq-Kuwait crisis, not merely to defend Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has enough forces to defend itself now following the arrival of the U.S. forces, according the Syrian sources.

The Syrian sources said that Arab forces will deploy on the Saudi-Kuwaiti borders to deter any Iraqi military expansion to the south and any U.S. movement toward Kuwait. The same sources added that Damascus will do everything to prevent foreign intervention. The sources said that any U.S. attack on Iraq would completely destroy that Arab country, a situation which Damascus does not accept. Moreover, such an attack could affect the entire region.

The Syrian forces said that the summit meeting between Egypt, Libya, Algeria, and Syria which followed the Cairo summit was held to prevent further divisions within the Arab ranks and to confirm the common goal of containing the crisis within the Arab framework, a matter which is in the interest of Iraq as well as the Arab people.

### Press on Differences Between Unity, 'Annexation'

*JN1508115990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] Damascus, 14 Aug (SANA)—Press commentaries here today address the serious situation in the Arabian Gulf region arising from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the huge buildup of fleets and multinational forces. This is a development that puts the region and the entire world face to face with a confrontation whose consequences are hard to predict and whose developments are difficult to contain. [passage omitted]

Under the headline "Pan-Arab Action Between Unity and Annexation," the newspaper TISHRIN says: What is happening today is a manifestation of a clear and premeditated attempt to mix an objective that is cherished and dear to all of our hearts—unity—with a word that is most inimical to our national and pan-Arab sentiments—annexation.

The paper adds: Unity is a pan-Arab objective and a voluntary act that should emanate from the masses' free will. This is diametrically opposed in content and form to annexation, which is based on the use of force to oppress the masses's will, humiliate the masses, and defile their dignity. This would turn unity from a blessing into a plague. Besides, such a thing would discourage the masses from giving any serious thought or taking any collective action to achieve unity.

TISHRIN says that there is a qualitative difference between unity, which is a demand of the masses and which the Arab masses have been struggling to achieve, and annexation, which is unacceptable in both form and content regardless of the attempts made to beautify it, because such a thing would eventually abort unionist efforts.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says under the headline "The Voice of Arab Reason," that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has given Israel a propitious opportunity not only to conceal the true nature of the regional conflict but also to distort its nature and to activate its diplomatic and propaganda machines in a bid to convince the world that the Arabs themselves are the cause of regional instability—which has recently been threatened only by imperialist and Zionist ambitions—and that they themselves are jeopardizing world security and safety and endangering the vital interests of the industrialized West.

The paper adds that the inter-Arab dispute would not have developed so menacingly had Iraq heeded the voice of reason and its own statements on the dangers engulfing the Arabs, calling for Arab solidarity, inter-Arab cooperation, and also for joint Arab action to face the challenges posed by Zionist ambitions.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Will Iraq heed the voice of Arab reason and act according to the need to remove the causes of all these accelerating developments before it is too late, so as to prevent graver interventions and possible explosions?

### Al-Shar' Receives Message From Iran's Velayati

*LD1208174890 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 12 Aug 90*

[Text] Damascus, Aug. 12, IRNA—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati dealing with the regional issues and mutual ties.

The message was handed to al-Shar' by Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari.

Last week, Velayati toured four Persian Gulf littoral states and Syria and held talks with leaders of those countries on Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and its consequent developments.

### Paper Questions Iraq's Acceptance of Agreement

*JN1608085990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Excerpt] Damascus, 16 Aug (SANA)—[passage omitted] In a commentary published today under the headline "For How Long Will the Peoples' Fate Be Treated With Disdain?" the newspaper TISHRIN asks why the Iraqi regime launched the mad, destructive war against the Iranian revolution if this regime will have to go back again to recognize the Algiers agreement. The paper says: Has this agreement now became fair, and for what purpose has Iraq paid the heavy human and material price and mortgaged its national economy for many years to come?

TISHRIN adds: The citizen has the right to ask how long critical issues can be dealt with so lightly, and how the peoples' fate can be allowed to hinge on the most irrational whims.

The paper says: The people of Iraq, and of the Arab nation and Iran, paid a heavy price for a destructive and mad war as a result of the abrogation of the Algiers Agreement, which was recognized again yesterday. How long can the people's right to live a free and decent life be ignored?

### Al-Asad Receives Mitterrand Message From Envoy

*JN1508164090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Damascus, 15 August (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1315 today Mr. Francois Scheer, director general of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and French President Francois Mitterrand's envoy. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the French charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Mr. Scheer delivered a message to the president from the French president on France's stand on the situation in the Gulf. The president handed him a written response. Talks dealt with the situation in the Gulf.

### Qaddur Receives Soviet Envoy Sytenko 15 Aug

*JN1608091190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Damascus—Mr. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Soviet envoy Sytenko last night. The Soviet ambassador in Damascus attended. The talks dealt with the developments in the Arab region in general and in the Arabian Gulf in particular.

### Deputy Meets Parliament President, Minister

*AU1408122890 Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 14 Aug 90 p 3*

[Text] Damascus—Syria's Parliament President 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddura has received Wendelin Ettmayer, deputy of the Austrian People's Party and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Austrian Nationalrat, who is currently staying in Damascus, for a talk.

The talk particularly concentrated on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the sending of Arab troops to Saudi Arabia, and the prospects of the Middle East conflict. According to a release by his party's press service on Monday [13 August], Ettmayer, who also met with State Minister Nasir Qaddur, stressed that the late former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky had a lasting influence on relations with the Arab states. These traditionally good relations must prove their worth in difficult times as well.

The parliamentarian explained to his interlocutors Austria's attitude toward the latest crisis in the Gulf region. Austria will not recognize Kuwait's annexation by Iraq and will participate in the sanctions that were decided by the UN Security Council, he said.

## Afghanistan

### Repatriation Minister Interviewed on Refugees

*LD1608050190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Kabul, Aug 15 (BAKHTAR)—Fateh Muhammad Tarin, minister of repatriation affairs, was interviewed today by some foreign journalists in his [word indistinct].

The minister replied to questions (?asked) by the journalists about the establishment of a High Commission for Refugee Affairs led by Fazl Haz Kahl'qyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, RA, in order to ensure favorable conditions for the safe return of refugees and the grant of privileges and necessary assistance to the returnees families etc.

Replying to another questions, he said that the government of the RA in the light of the policy of national reconciliation will make every effort for the creation of a favorable atmosphere of work and life for the returnees.

### Third Pakistani Student Killed in Khowst

*LD1408182190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Excerpt] Jawid Khan, a member of the Islamic Students Society of the Golbahar Region of Karachi, was killed last week in Khowst major district during a face-to-face battle with the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces. He is the third Pakistani subjct killed in the surroundings of Khowst major district during a face-to-face battle with the country's armed forces. [passage omitted]

### Rockets Fired From West Injure Two in Kabul

*LD1408160990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] Two residents of Kabul were injured today as a result of three American rockets fired into Kabul by the extremists. The BIA military section reports that the injured were quickly taken to a hospital and are under intensive medical treatment and care. Their health is satisfactory. The rockets, fired from the west, landed in residential area of Ward 5 and have caused material damage as well.

### Security Conducts Clean-Up Operation in Dehsabz

*LD1408163290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] Organs of the Ministry of State Security today mounted a clean-up operation in the Dehsabz area [in Kabul] in order to prevent terrorist acts by extremists. The BIA military section reports that in the course of the operation, launched with the all-out cooperation of the local people, four ground-to-ground U.S. Sakar rockets, which were deployed in the area to be fired into the residential area of Kabul city, have been captured along with 13 shells and some artillery and mortar mines.

### Fatal Infighting Continues in Kapisa Province

*LD1408184590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] In continuation of differences and avenging attacks on each other between the Rabbani and Gulboddin extremist groups, fierce clashes have recently flared up between these two rival groups in Shekhankhel Region of Kapisa Province.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that during these clashes, in which the belligerent parties used heavy weapons and various kinds of rockets against each other, 10 men including Samadar, a group's deputy ringleader were killed and dozens of others from the rival groups were injured.

## Bangladesh

### Ershad Receives Message From Saudi King Fahd

*BK1508131790 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] The visiting Saudi state minister for foreign affairs, Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tunian called on President Ershad in Dhaka Wednesday. The Saudi minister handed over a message from King Fahd to President Ershad.

### Government To Send Forces to Saudi Arabia

*BK1508161390 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 aug 90*

[Text] Bangladesh has decided to send a military contingent to Saudia Arabia in response to a request by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka today the primary objective in responding to the Saudi request is help arrest the deteriorating security situation and the growing division between the Islamic countries in the region. The stationing of the token Bangladesh military contingent will be for defensive purposes only. In taking the decision, a major consideration for the government has been the close and friendly relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia.

Bangladesh has taken into account the situation which has characterized the region for a long time resulting in the continued Israeli occupation of Palestine, denying the people their inalienable political and human rights as well as aggression against Syria and Lebanon. Eight years of war between Iran and Iraq had deteriorated the stability in the area and the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait has further deteriorated the situation to an extent never experienced before.

The Solidarity among the Arab and Islamic nations which has sustained the Ummah [Muslim community] during the previous years now stands threatened and compromised. In these circumstances, having regards to the decisions of the

UN Security Council, the Organization of the Islamic Countries, and the Arab League, which reflect the will of the international community on the Gulf crisis, Bangladesh has agreed to the Saudi request.

The spokesman reiterated Bangladesh's principled stand of opposition to use of force in settling disputes between sovereign nations.

### Cabinet Reviews Gulf Situation, Adopts Measures

*BK1508010990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] A special Cabinet meeting was held in Dhaka today with President Ershad in the chair to discuss the latest situation arising out of the gulf crisis and its resultant effect on the economy. The meeting reviewed all possible aspects which might have an impact on the country, including trade, remittances by expatriates, and security of Bangladesh nationals in the gulf countries. The president said there is no reason for any immediate impact on Bangladesh by the events in the gulf. The government is, however, preparing itself to meet any emergency.

Following the president's directive, an emergency management committee was set up headed by Vice President Moudud Ahmad to [word indistinct] and monitor the situation and adopt emergency measures as and when required. The Cabinet meeting took a series of measures to economize consumption of oil and electricity. Friday has been declared oil holiday when all the oil stations of the country will remain closed. All shops and commercial establishments shall close after 2000 except for hotels and medicine shops. The use of street lights in cities and towns is being limited after 2200. Public and private illuminations have been banned throughout the country to minimize electricity consumption. The decisions are effective from next Friday.

The Cabinet reviewed the situation of Bangladesh nationals numbering about one lakh in Kuwait and Iraq and decided that the emergency management committee will take necessary steps to ensure their well-being and arrange repatriation whenever necessary.

### Health Minister Seeks Meeting With Doctors

*BK1208074090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0723 GMT 12 Aug 90*

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 12 (AFP)—Bangladesh Health Minister Azizur Rahman called Sunday for a meeting with striking doctors, as a newspaper reported that the government was trying to drive a wedge between the strikers. There was no immediate response from the striking Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), which has so far shunned government appeals for dialogue, saying a controversial new health policy must first be scrapped. Mr. Rahman's call for talks came a day after medical sources warned that the health sector was headed for disaster due to the strike launched in government hospitals across Bangladesh on July 28.

The NEW NATION said the "government in its frantic attempt to foil the strike was trying to create a rift between the striking doctors." The newspaper, which quoted informed sources, did not elaborate. The BMA said it would continue its strike as planned until August 15, when most of its 8,315 members who are government doctors are expected to offer their resignations. "We will announce later whether we will continue the strike after August 15 or go for a different campaign," a BMA source said.

More than 80 patients have reportedly died in hospitals since the latest strike started July 28 across Bangladesh. The BMA, which condemns the new policy as an attempt to privatize the health sector, has refused to comment on the deaths, which officials said occurred because doctors were either unavailable or unwilling to give treatment.

### Medical Association Calls Off Strike 15 Aug

*BK1608010290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] The Bangladesh Medical Association [BMA] has called off its strike. The strike has been called off following an assurance by the Government to resolve the reasonable and just grievances of the BMA. In a press release in Dhaka today, the Central Council of the association directed all its members to join work immediately. The press release was issued by the BMA Central Council on the basis of the decision at its meeting held in Dhaka yesterday. It says the Government has issued a press note saying it would frame a new health policy acceptable to all for the welfare of the people. The policy will be worked out in negotiations with the BMA, medical professionals, and other public representative organizations and agencies.

The prime minister also at a meeting with the association asked them to withdraw their strike and sit for discussions. In the press note yesterday, the government said the situation arising out of the guidelines in the proposed national health policy needs to be solved. The president also on the fifth of this month called for framing a new health policy through discussions. In (?support) of this call, the government will take steps to frame a new health policy acceptable to all.

### Arrest Sparks Riot at Dhaka University

*BK1608060090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0534 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 16 (AFP)—Dhaka University was calm but tense under tight police security Thursday after students went on a rampage Wednesday night, university sources said. Activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) student group set fire to three vehicles and damaged several others near the campus by a busy shopping

district after one of their leaders, Golam Faruq Abhi, was rearrested at the gates of Dhaka central jail immediately after his release.

Mr. Abhi was arrested in September during a police raid on campus dormitories to flush out "terrorists" after disturbances at the school, which is a hotbed of student politics. When they arrested him, police said the student leader was wanted for several alleged offences, including possession of weapons.

He was released on bail Wednesday, but was immediately detained for a further 120 days, university sources said. They said they did not know why Mr. Abhi was rearrested.

The university's vice-chancellor, Professor Mohammad Moniruzzaman Mia, said that "terrorism and vandalism will not be tolerated in the school," which is Bangladesh's top education establishment. It is also a stronghold of the JCD—the student wing of Begum Khaleda Zia's opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party—which won a landslide victory in student union elections in June. The violence that has gripped the 68-year-old university since August 1989 has claimed the lives of at least three students.

## India

### Gujral Leaves Moscow for Washington 15 Aug

#### Seeks 'Peaceful Solution'

*BK1508130390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have called for initiation of a political dialogue between Kuwait and Iraq and restoration of the situation prior to the Iraqi invasion. The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, made an appeal to this effect with his Soviet counterpart, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, in Moscow today. Mr. Gujral has left for Washington this evening to bring about a peaceful solution to the current Gulf crisis.

#### Meets Baker on Gulf Crisis

*BK1608043290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] As part of India's efforts for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, met the U.S. secretary of state, Mr. James Baker, in Washington yesterday evening. According to a State Department spokesman, the two leaders discussed the present situation in the Gulf.

Earlier, Mr. Gujral arrived in New York from Moscow after having talks with the Soviet leaders on the West Asia crisis. Later, speaking to newsmen, Mr. Gujral said the focus of the discussion he had with Mr. Baker was on the problems faced by the large number of Indian nationals working in Iraq and Kuwait. The Indian external affairs minister also explained to the U.S. secretary of state the economic problems faced by India following the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Gujral said India supports the trade embargo against Iraq imposed by the UN Security Council. As reported earlier, India and the Soviet Union yesterday called for a political dialogue between Iraq and Kuwait and the restoration of the status prior to the Iraqi attack on Kuwait.

### USSR Agrees To Consider Extra Oil Request

*BK1508164090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] India and the Soviet Union have called for a political dialogue between Iraq and Kuwait for the restoration of the status prior to the Iraqi attack on Kuwait. After talks in Moscow, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, and his Soviet counterpart, Mr. Shevardnadze, called upon the international community to fully utilize the UN mechanism to defuse the present crisis. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union has agreed to consider India's request for extra supply of crude oil. This follows the discussion Mr. Gujral had with the Soviet first deputy prime minister, Mr. R. Voronin [name and position as heard] in Moscow today.

### Blockade Halts Assam Oil Supply to Refineries

*BK1508152190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] In Assam, the flow of crude oil from upper Assam fields to the refineries at Digboi, Guwahati, Bongaigaon and Barauni came to a grinding halt since early this morning following a week-long oil blockade launched by the All Assam Students Union. The blockade has been put up to demand implementation of the Assam accord and cancellation of construction of a loop crude oil pipeline.

### Government Claims Strategic Mineral Rights

*BK1008045390 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 9 Aug 90*

[Text] The government has announced a new national mineral policy. Placing it on the table of the Rajya Sabha today, the steel and mines minister, Mr. Dinesh Goswami, said 13 strategic non-fuel and non-atomic minerals have been reserved for exclusive exploitation by the Government. These include iron ore, manganese ore, sulphur, gold, diamond, and copper. The policy makes it clear that reservation of 13 minerals for exclusive exploitation will not stop the government from securing cooperation of the private sector. There will ordinarily be no bar of private mining of small deposits. Development of minor minerals will be undertaken normally through the initiative of the private sector. But it will be open to government enterprises to mine and process these. In respect of all other minerals, the state will continue to play an active role. The policy emphasizes certain new

aspects like exploitation of minerals in the sea-bed and [word indistinct] for members of the scheduled tribes for development deposits in scheduled areas.

### Minister Says Pakistan Fails To Get Soviet Arms

*BK1608080890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that Pakistan has not been successful in its efforts to get arms manufactured by the Soviet Union. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said India has been given a specific assurance by the Soviet Union in this regard. Replying to questions during zero hour, the minister also said that government has information that attempts by Pakistan to get such arms from East European and other countries have also not been successful so far.

Referring to possible supply of arms to terrorists by Afghan rebels from across the border, Mr. Harikishore Singh said the government has taken several measures to prevent smuggling of arms.

### Surveillance of Pakistan Border Increases

*BK1608092790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Surveillance along the Indo-Pak border has been stepped up to check infiltration of Pak-trained subversives. Intelligence set up has also been strengthened and some selective stretches of the border have been fenced and illuminated. This was stated by the minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, in the Lok Sabha today. In a written reply, the minister informed that during the last three months 282 persons have been apprehended while crossing the border for entering into India.

### Surface-to-Air Missile Firing Details Reported

*BK1608035890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] More details about the successful test firing of the country's most modern medium-range surface-to-air missile—Akash—are available now. The director of the Defense Research and Development Laboratory, Dr. Abdul Kalam, said in Bhubaneshwar that the multitarget missile was test fired from the interim test range of Chandipur at sea in Balasore District of Orissa on Tuesday [14 August]. He said after completing the flight test program over a two-year period, the missile is expected to go into deployment by 1993.

### Lab Director Cited on Akash Missile Program

*BK1608040890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1735 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 15 (AFP)—India has successfully test-fired a new surface-to-air missile, a senior official quoted by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Wednesday. The medium-range multi-target "Akash" (sky) missile was fired from the interim test range at eastern coastal Orissa state's Chandipur area Tuesday, PTI said.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, director of the Defence Research and Development Laboratory, reportedly said that with the latest missile "we have commenced the flight-test programme for Akash, which consists of a series of nine flights over a two-year period." "We hope to have four more flights of the system this year," PTI quoted Mr. Abdul Kalam as saying in a dispatch from Bhubaneswar, the capital of Orissa on the Bay of Bengal coast.

Mr. Abdul Kalam was also quoted by PTI as saying that the first flight trial of the Akash was to test its high-energy propulsion system. Its next launch would use a different propulsion system, which he did not specify. He said the Akash was expected to be deployed by 1993. It is the fifth missile developed as part of India's billion-dollar integrated guided missile development programme launched in 1983.

Two of the five—the surface-to-surface Prthvi (Earth) and multi-role, short-range surface-to-air Trishul (Trident)—are already in production and are to be brought into service by 1991-92, he said. A third missile, the Agni (Fire) with a range of 2,500 kms (1,500 miles), was successfully tested in May 1989, while the Nag (Cobra), an anti-tank missile that can be fired from the ground or air, was tested in June this year.

### Premier Issues Independence Day Message for Army

*BK1508163190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] The prime minister has reiterated that we do not want war with any country. But in case of a threat to our unity and integrity, we will not hesitate to fight with full might. In his message to the armed forces on the occasion of Independence Day, Mr. V.P. Singh expressed his confidence that the country's sovereignty and integrity is safe in their hands. The prime minister also outlined various measures for the rehabilitation after retirement at a young age. He said the government is taking certain decisions in regard to pension and will soon be implementing them.

### President Gives Independence Day Message

*BK1508051590 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Message to the nation by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman on the eve of the 43d anniversary of independence; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Friends, on the eve of the 43d anniversary of our independence, I extend to all fellow citizens residing in India and abroad my fraternal greetings. It is my great pleasure to extend the special word of felicitation to the kisans [peasants] who till our fields; to the mazdoors [laborers] who toil in our factories; and to our gallant

jawans [soldiers], airmen, and sailors who maintain an unremitting vigil on our frontiers. I would like to extend my brotherly benediction to the women of India whose faith, fortitude, and fine qualities have sustained our civilization through the ages.

Our thoughts turn on this occasion with gratitude and reverence to the cherished memory of our freedom fighters who sacrificed their all for the liberation of the motherland. It was 133 years ago in the magical year of 1857 that the first salvo of freedom was fired. Different parts of India witnessed a succession of liberation movements which had sought to awaken our people from their stupor. Names of some of our outstanding stalwarts come to mind. Veerapandiya Kattabomman, and Kittur Ranichannama of the south; Shahid Bhagat Singh and Chandra Shekhar Azad of the North; Madam Kama, Vasudev Phadke, Dadabhai Noroji and Butiabjis of the west; Maniram Dutta, Gopbandhu Das and Aurobindo Ghosh of the east. We remember today the great trio—Lal, Bal, Pal—Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and Bipin Chandra Pal, and heroes like Ali Brothers, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Motilal Nehru, and C.R. Das. We are also reminded on this occasion of the charismatic Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, whose battle cry of Dilli Chalo [go to Delhi] stirred the whole nation.

Above all, we recall today with affection, respect, and infinite gratefulness Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation. It was he who converted the nation's aspirations for emancipation into an irresistible mass movement. It was he who turned thousands upon thousands of ordinary men and women into memorable satyagrahis [followers of Mahatma Gandhi's path of passive protest]. But Gandhiji's aim was not the mere replacement of the Union Jack by the Indian tricolor or the substitution of the white rulers by the brown. It went deeper. Gandhiji said once, and I quote: Swaraj [self-rule] for me means freedom for the meanest of our countrymen. I am not interested in freeing India merely from the English yoke. I am bent upon freeing India from any yoke whatsoever, unquote.

Poverty, illiteracy, disease, and other forms of backwardness such as untouchability and religious obscurantism were perceived by him as oppressive burdens. Swaraj without swadeshi [the country-made things], self-rule without self-reliance had no meaning for Gandhiji. Thanks to the farsightedness of our beloved first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the vision of leaders like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Babasaheb Ambedkar, and Maulana Azad and the pragmatism of several chief ministers, such as Bidhan Roy in Bengal, Govind Ballav Pant in Uttar Pradesh, and Kamraj in Tamil Nadu—the pre-1947 stagnation gave way to dynamic all-round development.

Our greatest achievement lay in the transformation of Indian agriculture. From the position of being a country that had to import food grains in the 1950's and 1960's, we have now reached a position of self-sufficiency in food grains and maintain a sizable buffer stock. If Indian agriculture constitutes a success story, Indian industry and entrepreneurship have not lagged behind. We rank today among the first 15 of the industrialized countries of the world. From abject dependence on imports in 1947, we have reached the self-reliance, not just in a host of consumer durables, but in engineering items like heavy machine tools and equipment. India missed the Industrial Revolution. But we are determined not to miss out on the advantages of the current technological revolution. With the third largest reservoir of technical and skilled manpower, India has made great strides in fields like computers, nuclear power plants, oceanography, genetic engineering, biotechnology, and space research.

Our national satellite, INSAT-1D, launched on 12 June has already become functional for telecommunications, television, radio networking, and round-the-clock weather watching at 30-minute intervals. The satellite's weather eye will send imageries to ground stations spread all over the country. This will confer a boon on our farmers and fishermen and help save the lives of our people from disasters like storms and cyclones. If we have soared the skies, we have also climbed measuring scales of more direct human concern.

Life expectancy in India has shot up from the pre-independence figure of 33 years to 60 years. Along with health services, educational facilities have spread impressively. It has been estimated by experts that in the number of students enrolled in higher education as a percentage of the population aged 20 to 24, India is not only ahead of other developing countries, but also of countries with twice India's per capita income. Even as India's freedom has been achieved without resort to armed rebellion, its economic progress has been brought about peacefully with the consent of the people. Our plans have been debated in Parliament and approved by people's representatives. The measure of land reforms, for instance, even though its implementation needs much to be desired, has been free from violence or taint of class conflict. All this is a tribute to the Nehruvian [Jawaharlal Nehru's] concept of a mixed economy and planned economic development and to our democratic polity. But to be honest to ourselves, we must admit that (?while) all our achievements have been listed and our progress applauded, we are still left with a deep sense of inadequacy in the material and moral development of our people as a whole.

Our satellite, as I said, has a weather eye that sees the changing moods of the seasons. But we seem to lack a weather eye which can see the changing moods, hopes, and aspirations of our people. The poetess and philosopher, Mahadevi Verma, put it so elegantly: What an irony that a country which can split the atom and send an Aryabhata [Indian experimental satellite] soaring into the skies has rendered its people so poor and destitute.

One-third of the population of India still lives at the subsistenc level. The contrast between the rich and the poor, the urbanite and villager, the educated and the illiterate remains wide. The child in India, the urban street child and the girl child in particular, suffers from painful disabilities. The vast mass of our people have

remained outside the periphery of progress. The distinguished economist, Professor Amartya Sen, has recently said and I quote, India's self-sufficiency in food has to be assessed in the light of the limited purchasing power of the Indian masses. There has been no great shortage in the market, no crisis to deal with, but at least a third of the rural population has regularly and quietly gone to bed hungry and malnourished. [no reference to closing of quotation as heard] We must correct this situation urgently. The challenge is of daunting proportions, but it must be met if swaraj is to mean anything to our masses. And it must be met not just by the mechanisms of government but by each one of us doing our duty—whatever be our field—conscientiously and diligently. Of our talents, there is no doubt, but do we as a people still take that pride in our work which our ancestors—the builders of Taj Mahal and the Dilwara Temple—did? The need of the hour is reorientation of our attitudes to work and to develop a work ethos. If everyone of us—be he or she an administrator, doctor, nurse, agricultural or industrial worker, trader, and so on—takes pride in the work and decides to do nothing short of his honest best, our society will be transformed rapidly into a prosperous one. A nation's greatness is not measured by a few exceptional scientists, artists, and poets, but by the quality of life of the people reflected by parameters like personal safety, clean and wholesome environment, efficient services, and amenities of life. These can be provided only when each one discharges his duties honestly, efficiently, and in a spirit of dedication.

Dramatic changes are overtaking the global economy. Controlled economies are fast changing over to competitive regimes and are striving hard to find a foothold in the new dispensation. Developing countries, with their backward technologies, poor quality, and high cost of production, are particularly vulnerable to the changing pattern of trade. Unless India gears itself to meet the challenge by updating technology, improving efficiency, and reducing costs, it is sure to be left behind in the competitive world. It may also be necessary to adopt its economic and trade policies in tune with the new patterns of global trade. In this great task, the entrepreneurs, labors, technologists, and commercial organizations must pool their (?weight) together in order to carve a place for ourselves in the world trade. I have every confidence that our great nation will rise to the occasion and leave behind for our progeny a legacy of which it shall be proud.

An even more important task crucial for our survival as a civilization confronts us. Swaraj or self-rule must also mean tolerance and self-restraint. If we examine our social conditions today, we will find that the air is thick with bitter animosities. Individual and group ego is inflamed beyond recognition and seems set to either give or take offense on a triviality. Majorities juxtaposed in confrontation with minorities, migrants with residents, farmers with city dwellers, tribals with plains persons are a negation of nationhood. Centuries ago, Sant [Saint] Kabir working at his loom realized that tolerance was the way of wisdom. He sang: Hari [God, as Hindus call Him] is in the east, Allah is in the west; look within your heart, for there you will find both Karim [God, as Muslims call Him] and Ram [Hindu God]. All the men and women of the world are His living forms, Kabir is the child of Allah and of Ram, unquote. [no reference to beginning of quotation as heard]

In our own times, Mahatma Gandhi reminded us: Eishwar, Allah tere nam [Eishwar and Allah are names for God]; and added to the prayer: Grant wisdom and good sense to all, my Lord.

Let us remind ourselves of the great sacrifices that the freedom fighters made for the liberation of the country. They plunged into the freedom struggle without any hope or expectation of reward. Unfortunately after independence, the very concept of sacrifice for the sake of the country has disappeared from our lexicon.

The phenomenon of terrorism which has vitiated life in so many parts of India continues to escalate. Acting with the diabolical sophistication, it hits out at innocent men, women, and children who have offended no one. Attacks on public servants are particularly reprehensible since these acts of violence hurt those who are only performing their duties. Apart from hurting and killing, the barbaric practice of kidnapping persons has been resorted to by extremists. Let us all resolve to regard these instances, be they in Kashmir, Punjab, Assam, or elsewhere, as aberrations from human decency. Our society seems to be degenerating to barbarism and unless the state, with public support, is able to curb all forms of terrorism, we as a nation will soon forfeit our claim to be the representatives of an ancient culture and civilization.

In this context, I would like to reiterate the suggestion I made earlier that global action to eliminate the scourge of terrorism is urgently called for. We are aware that such action by the international community had led to the lessening of the menace of hijacking of aircraft and vessels. An international convention not to give asylum to terrorists and to hand over terrorists to countries where the offense has been committed—irrespective of any bilateral extradition treaties between them—will go a long way to help curbing terrorism.

The sheet anchor of India's foreign policy is peace and friendship with all nations and particularly its neighbors. We want peace and stability in our region. We rejoice that in different parts of the world dialogue is replacing distrust and consensus is removing confrontation. We hope that these encouraging trends will lead to a world rid of war, desolation, and destruction.

Friends, the tricolor flag will go up tomorrow at the Red Fort, over all public buildings, and in countless humble dwellings all over the country. The flag is the emblem of the nation. Its saffron color represents the age-old spirit of renunciation; the white, a dynamic purity; and the green, the prosperity of the people. The earlier generation had sacrificed its all in order that this flag of freedom may flutter over our heads. It is the bounden

duty of this generation to uphold the honor and dignity of the flag and pass it on to the succeeding generation.

Before I conclude, I would like to once again join all of you in extending to our defense forces our warmest tributes on their devotion to duty and their exemplary standards. They are guarding the nation's integrity and sovereignty under difficult conditions of terrain and climate. I wish to assure them that the country stands behind them. Let us remember the eternal truth Poet Bharati has given us: Disunity brings ruin to everyone; unity gives life to all of us.

Jai Hind [Hail India].

### 284 Indians Arrive in Bombay From Amman

*BK1508151390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Jordan has promised all assistance to India in evacuating its nationals from Iraq and Kuwait. This was conveyed to the civil aviation minister, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, by the Jordanian deputy prime minister, Mr. Salim Masa'idah, and the trade and civil aviation minister [title as heard], Mr. Abu-al-Huda. Mr. Khan is in Amman to supervise the evacuation of Indians who are held up in Baghdad following the Gulf crisis. Meanwhile, 284 Indians, including 208 hajj pilgrims, arrived in Bombay today from Amman by a special Air India flight. The flight also carried 76 Indian residents in Kuwait who reached Amman via Iraq.

### Job Reservation Protesters Burn Rail Station

*BK1508154590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] In Bihar, the agitation of [as heard] job reservation [for the disadvantaged] still continued today with sporadic incidents in some parts of the state. The anti-reservationists set on fire the Ratanpur railway station in Monghyr District at Kiul-Bhagalpur section of Eastern Railway.

### Calcutta Strike Affects Transit, Business

*BK1608094590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Normal life is affected in Calcutta today, following a 12-hour bundh [strike] called by the Congress-I to protest against price rises and hike in bus and tram fares. According to an official source, one person was killed in a bomb blast in South Calcutta. Reports of rail and road blocks have been reported from various parts of the city. The state transport buses and trams are plying normally with, however, few passengers on board. Shops, business houses, and educational institutions are mostly closed. Attendance in government offices is thin.

## Iran

### Response to, Commentary on Iraqi Initiative

#### Foreign Ministry Reacts

*LD1508111790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] In connection with the message released by Saddam Husayn, the president of Iraq, the text of which was broadcast by Baghdad Radio, we contacted a responsible official of the Supreme National Security Council, who stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] has not received the letter from the official and diplomatic sources, and what we have heard is merely through the news agencies on the basis of the statement broadcast by Baghdad Radio. This responsible official stressed: Overall, in view of what has been released, we have an optimistic evaluation of this step.

Our correspondent also interviewed a spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry in this connection, to which I draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Mr. Sarmadi, as spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, could you please tell us about the stance of the IRI in response to the recent letter of the Iraqi president that was broadcast by Baghdad Radio?

[Sarmadi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We also heard the Iraqi president's reply to the recent letter of His Excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Islamic president of Iran, through the mass media. We are delighted that at last the logical views of the IRI, and the border and goodneighborliness treaty of 1975 has been adopted by Iraq. The views and stances which the Muslim and steadfast nation of Iran heroicly defended for eight years are views that are based on international principles and regulations that guarantee the interests of the two Muslim and neighbor nations of Iran and Iraq, and which will bring a lasting and just peace between the two countries and the region within the framework of Resolution 598 and the 1975 treaty. After receiving this letter, the IRI will announce its formal stance in detail and will inform the noble people of Iran of what has been happening. [end recording]

#### Proposal Offers 'Optimistic Perspective'

*LD1508121790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] At last, after eight years of courageous resistance by the zealous Iranian nation and its selfless combatants, and after two years of diplomatic endeavors alongside the principled stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq today announced its acceptance of the 1975 [Algerian] treaty and its withdrawal from the occupied Iranian areas in response to Iran's logical demands. Although Iran has not yet formally received the Iraqi president's

letter, Iraq's move nonetheless offers an optimistic perspective [jam' bandi]. It is delightful that Iran's views and border treaty have been accepted and respected.

In the view of political observers, Iraq's acceptance of the proposals and its emphasis on respecting the border treaty between the two countries can be a positive step toward safeguarding the interests of the two nations, Iran and Iraq. The Iraqi Government's stance today, which followed an exchange of messages between Iran and Iraq, responds to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's latest message. In his message, our president reiterated Iran's logical and explicit stance in the course of the Iran-Iraq talks.

At any rate, although it is too early to comment on the outcome and various dimensions of this development in Iran-Iraq relations, what is significant is the reliance on principles and international rules and regulations which Iran has always demanded and stressed. No doubt it is through this reliance that a lasting and just peace within the framework of Resolution 598 and the 1975 treaty will return to the two states, Iran and Iraq. This is certainly in the interests of the two Muslim nations, Iran and Iraq.

### Security Council Discusses Proposal

*LD1508174990 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—The Supreme National Security Council met under the chairmanship of President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday evening [15 August] to study Iraq's offer to Iran.

The meeting, attended by all the council members and presidential advisors, discussed Saddam Husayn's offer to Iran, as well as the progress of the peace talks after the new Iraqi position, and appropriate decisions were taken.

In an announcement today, Saddam Husayn said he has accepted all Iranian conditions for peace with Iraq, including the 1975 agreement and that starting Friday [17 August] he will be withdrawing his troops from Iranian occupied areas and release all prisoners of war.

### Velayati Hails 'Political Victory'

*LD1508183190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, answered our correspondent's question over the telephone and elaborated on his assessment of the Iraqi acceptance of the 1975 [Algerian] accord and [UN] Resolution 598. He said it was a political victory for the Islamic Republic of Iran's system. He said:

[Begin Velayati recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We also heard the news from the newscasts. Although we still have not received the official [Iraqi] letter, according to our latest information it has been handed to our representative and is on the way. God willing, it will reach us tonight.

As for the Iraqi acceptance of the 1975 accord, I should say that this is the biggest victory for the Islamic Republic of Iran within its lifespan. That is, what has taken place is in fact the realization of our people's just rights. To be fair, they showed a very good steadfastness during the eight years of war and during the two years of discussions. They showed the highest level of resistance and self-sacrifice during the war. During the two tiresome years of peace talks they showed a lot of patience—in particular the families of the dear POW's and MIA's put up with their dear ones' absence and did not pressure us. In fact the people always encouraged us in various ways to resist Iraqi threats and pressures. God be praised, today, after 10 years since the beginning of the Iraqi invasion of Iran, the people are witnessing the results of their patience and resistance and steadfastness. God willing, this will be a very good opening to the country's extensive reconstruction and realization of the Islamic Republic of Iran's just rights. The Republic and its people showed the world that they are prepared to show so much resistance and stability to defend their own ideals. [end recording]

Mr. Velayati replied another question from our correspondent on the dispatch of an Iraqi political delegation to Tehran and said:

[Begin Velayati recording] His Excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, announcing the Islamic Republic of Iran's stances to the Iraqi Government, stressed that if the Iraqi regime accepts the 1975 accord then we are able to welcome that government's envoy. if the letter which we are going to receive confirms what we have heard from newscasts, then it seems there remains no further obstacles to accepting an Iraqi delegation as far as the Islamic Republic of Iran is concerned; we are prepared to receive that delegation in Tehran. [end recording]

### Khamene'i Remarks Before Offer

*LD1508180390 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—Ayatolllah 'Ali Khamene'i saying that Iran's stance was decisive and unchangeable contrary to those of other governments noted on Wednesday that "we condemn aggression either by Iraq or the U.S."

"We consider any sort of aggression in the region and also the presence of American forces in Saudi Arabia in the interest of Zionism and arrogance, to the detriment of Islam and Muslims and against the Islamic Revolution," he said.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution made the remarks in a speech to a group of visiting people at Imam Khomeyni Mosque at his residence Wednesday morning.

The leader's remarks were made before the announcement today that Iraq has accepted the 1975 border agreement with Iran.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution compared Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to U.S. aggressions against Grenada

and Panama, saying "the U.S. has been thinking for long of building up its military forces in the Persian Gulf."

Ayatollah Khamene'i described the military presence of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf as "the fight of the world's hegemonist powers over material interests and resources."

"Those governments inviting the U.S. to their countries to defend themselves are governments without grassroot support which do not enjoy the backing of their peoples and for this reason they are unable to defend themselves.

"By suppressing the spirit of Islam and Islamic faith of their people they (these governments) have actually dealt a blow on their countries and nations and they will have to pay a dear price for the military presence of the U.S. as a bullying power," he said.

The revered Ayatollah referred to the presence of U.S. military forces in Saudi Arabia as an "insult to the Muslim people of that country."

The U.S. and its allies after deploying their forces in bases they have built in the region for themselves will tighten more firmly than ever before their grip on the region, he said. This is because in those places the people's will and wish play no role and the government is like a burden on the shoulders of people, he added.

"Global arrogance and the regional reactionaries who remained silent in an unmanly manner vis-a-vis the 8-year old aggression on Iran and helped the aggressor in its confrontation with Islam and the Islamic Revolution, have now become embarrassed in the face of the invasion of Kuwait and are launching extensive efforts to preserve their interests," the leader said.

### UN Envoy Terms Proposal 'First Step'

*LD1508184290 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] New York, Aug. 15, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi today expressed hope that the settlement of the Iraq-Iran conflict would be the first step towards the return of the security to the Persian Gulf region, and establishment of good neighbourly relations among the regional countries. "This (settlement) should come true on the basis of international laws, the Security Council resolutions and invulnerability of the internationally-recognized borders," he stressed.

Commenting on Saddam Husayn's letter to President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday, Kharrazi said Iran has not yet received the Iraqi offer officially, "However, Iranian officials are optimistically reviewing early information and reports in this regard. But the final decision will be made after a thorough study of the letter."

An Iraqi delegation is expected in Tehran tonight to submit Saddam Husayn's letter to the Iranian officials.

Kharrazi also termed acceptance of Iran's just positions" by Iraq as an "outcome of the Iranian people's resistance during the years of war and afterwards."

### Spokesman on Release of POW's

*LD1508203990 Tehran IRNA in English 1846 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—Baghdad is to release 2,000 Iranian prisoners of war Friday [17 August], according to Morteza Sarmadi a spokesman of the Iranian Foreign Ministry here today. Sarmadi said the names of the POWs to be released Friday are soon to be received which, he said, would be immediately released for public knowledge. He said many of the Iranian war prisoners in Iraq have not yet been listed and expressed hope that the latter group, so far classified as missing in action, would shortly return home with their fellow combatants.

The Foreign Ministry official expressed pleasure over the decision of the Baghdad government which, he commented, would be done simultaneous with the pulling back of troops from Iranian territories, and indicated a reciprocal action by Iran saying "Iran would certainly respond to that gesture with positive action which will exhilarate the relatives of Iraqi POWs." Sarmadi said the news of the release of 2,000 Iranian POWs by Iraq on Friday had been relayed by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

He also asked relatives of the POWs and those missing in action to refrain from travelling to the two border cities specified in Iraq's letter as points where the released prisoners would be exchanged (i.e., Qasre Shirin of Iran and Khaneqin of Iraq).

### Papers Publish Iraqi Message

*LD1508204790 Tehran IRNA in English 1937 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—Saddam Husayn's announcement today morning to accept the Iranian stance and end hostilities between Iraq and Iran got front page coverage from all Tehran-based afternoon dailies.

The press published the full text of Saddam's message to President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, broadcast by Sawt al-Jamahir (Voice of the Masses) Radio from Baghdad at 10:30 hours Tehran time (0700 GMT).

In what seems to be an about-turn, the Iraqi strongman voiced acceptance of the 1975 Algiers accord, which he himself had torn in full glare of television viewers before sending his troops into Iran on September 22, 1980, the start of the almost eight year long war.

However, Tehran dailies refrained from any comments on Saddam Husayn's message because of the short time at their disposal before the issues were out.

Radio Tehran which interrupted its regular broadcast to break the news, welcomed it as a "positive step" towards

peace between the two countries. In its brief commentary, the radio reiterated that "by relying on international regulations which the Islamic Republic has always respected, we could achieve a lasting and honorable peace in the context of Resolution 598 and the 1975 Algiers accord."

In a bold three-line headline on its front page, ETTELA'AT cried: "Congratulations to the Heroic Nation on Iraq's Acceptance of Iran's Position on the Imposed War, the Result of the Prophetic Guidelines of the Late Imam, of the Blood of the Dear Martyrs of This Homeland and of the Endurance of War-Related Hardships by the Noble, Resistant and Devout People of Iran."

The Persian KEYHAN blared on its front page: "Iraq Announces Withdrawal of Troops From Iranian Soil and Release of all POWs." It also carried a photograph of a truckload of jubilant Iranian combatants on their way to the fronts, from the war days.

Underneath it, the caption read: "We stand to the last, we resisted for 8 years and made the sun of Islam shine all over the world, while now on the other side we see Kuwait could not even hold out for even half a day. Remember, we fought for 8 years despite international presure and we harrassed all arrogant powers of the world at the fronts. And now we have achieved our ideals for which we were crying for 8 years. Our war besides being the victory of our ideals, has now reached a clear politico-military victory. Our nation will continue its anti-arrogant struggles more decisively."

The third afternoon daily RESALAT ran the headline on its front page: "Iraq by Accepting the 1975 Accord Withdraws From Iran."

The news also brought down the price of gold and foreign currencies on the Tehran market, and economic observers believe that the declining trend would continue in the coming days.

On July 18, 1988 when Iran accepted U.N. Security Council 598, the market came crashing down with the price of gold and foreign currencies more than halved. However, the deadlock in the process of the peace talks over the past two years made the prices soar again.

## Reportage, Commentary Prior to Initiative

### Iraq's Claim of 'Revolution' Not New

*LD0408192690 Tehran IRNA in English 1751 GMT 4 Aug 90*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 4 IRNA—The statement on the Baathist radio today that events in Kuwait are "a revolution" to break dens of treachery and espionage, is not something new.

In fact, these were the very words aggressor Iraq used a decade ago to justify its unprovoked shelling and bombarding of Iranian border areas before its full-scale invasion of the Islamic Republic on September 22, 1980.

An indication of Iraq's more sinister design was the support the "champion forces of Qadessiyeh" were supposedly drawing from Iraqi masses jubilant over the so-called revolution and setting up a 'free' government in Kuwait, and the radio announcement that volunteers from southern Iraq to defend Kuwait have reached 183,690.

### Yazdi Friday Prayers Sermon 10 Aug

*LD1008174690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1227 GMT 10 Aug 90*

[Second Friday prayers sermon by Ayatollah Yazdi at Tehran University in Tehran 10 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] There are several issues in this sermon which should be mentioned in passing. First, there is the crisis in the Persian Gulf, brought about by the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, and at present we have seen or heard the reaction of the world—more or less—the reaction of the West, and a bit later, the East, Europe, Asian countries, and even the countries of the Persian Gulf littoral.

Can the geographical map of the world be really altered so easily? It is easily possible to imagine or think of an altered map, and one also can do it easily by taking a pencil in one's hand and changing a geographical map on paper. We have examples of this from this very Iraqi Government by the changes made to boundaries and to the world's geographical map; by the attack against Iran—perhaps the examples are still here today and can be found in the trenches conquered by the devoted combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran—they had changed the geographical map in their own minds; they had changed the name of Khuzestan and Khorramshahr in their imaginations, and in their letters and papers.

But really, can the world's geographical map be altered so easily, and at that by resorting to force to do this? If these kinds of actions were to be carried out by means of force, then in our opinion, the world has to return to many centuries back and begin its combat against the law of the jungle and the phrase—might is right—so as to once again reach today's world which involves a series of laws and criteria, systems, and rights. People should respect these laws and criteria and should solve their differences by sitting and talking, then acting. If someone gives himself the right to violate this boundary today, another boundary tomorrow, and yet another the day after tomorrow, the all the hard work done, at least since the end of World War II, and the United Nations and its affiliated organizations which came into existence in different fields of the law—should their work up to now be counted as nothing? Should they begin all over again?

This method and this action are not acceptable to the world. The geographical map of the world cannot be altered so easily in practice.

It is quite astonishing that the Iraqi Government's representative in the Security Council has gone one step further. In principle, he is saying that the borders created

between the Arab nations and the Arab governments are devoid of any validity, they were all created by arrogance, and hence should be dismantled. Well, having the experience of Iran behind you—who, as you learned, did not allow you to dismantle the border and alter the map—now you are learning the consequences of the Kuwaiti experience. Until that experience achieves any conclusive results, you should at least exercise some degree of self-restraint, and refrain from speaking in such a manner. As far as speeches on Arab nationhood and nationalistics discourses are concerned, I do not know how much value the world attaches to nationalistic issues. In any case, a military invasion, wherever in the world and in whatever form, is condemnable, specifically in light of Islamic logic, and in the eyes of the Islamic world, Islamic jurisprudence, all Muslims, and us. [crowd chants in support: God is great! Death to America! Death to England! Death to the Mojahedin! Death to Israel!] Not only is it condemnable, but it is unacceptable, and Iraqi words are unreliable in terms of establishment of relations, cooperation, and trust in political issues. Under these very conditions the Islamic Republic of Iran was expected to place its total trust in them and immediately accept any statement by the Iraqi Government as 100 percent correct. Obviously, that would be totally irrational, and clearly the country's executive officials remain fully alert in that respect.

Thus, the degree of trust that existed and exists in relations to the issues regarding peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq would be weakened. It is clear that the degree of trust under the existing conditions cannot be the same as it was prior to the military invasion of Kuwait. However, at the same time—as you yourselves are aware—and in my opinion, it can be inferred that the trend of peace negotiations between Iran and Iraq has maintained its natural posture, but is reiterative on the principle points, which consist of of the 1975 accord, and Security Council Resolution 598, and hence are unalterable. It is perfectly clear that under such circumstances one should be more precise in one's dealings in such negotiations. Fortunately, the honorable executive officials in the country have employed and continue to employ the necessary precision in pursuing these issues.

Another point to which attention should be given concerns the world's confession, specifically that of the world of arrogance, to the oppressions and cruelties inflicted on the innocent Iranian nation. All those things which we incessantly repeated throughout the eight years of the war, hoping that they would at least hear one sentence, without expecting any reaction from them; today, as you have witnessed, they have been forced into voicing those very sentences. Now they are paying attention, recognizing the nature of the Iraqi Government, its acts of aggression against its own people and its neighboring countries, prior to this invasion.

My last point with respect to this issue concerns the final outcome of this crisis, and how it is to be resolved. Would the imposition of an economic blockade—which has become and is gradually becoming tighter—resolve the issue? Would the deployment of weapons and military might in the region resolve the issue, or would it further intensify the crisis? This is something which the future will make clear. However, what we can say now is that others should not take charge of resolving a regional problem, but that it should be left to the inhabitants and the governments of the region to resolve it. Ultimately it is the outsider who benefits from its presence in the region in one way or another. We believe that the problem should be resolved by the governments in the region, and the Iraqi Government must withdraw its forces and yield to the prevailing regulations as soon as possible, and in so doing admit to its second wrongdoing.

Second point: There are certain themes in Kashmir which we are constantly hearing about: the treatment Muslims are receiving, circumstances about which you have heard in the news and which have been talked about. I shall here repeat that the Indian Goverment must act with more precision and caution. The issue is not merely that of Kashmir and differences between India and Pakistan: The political dimensions of the issue are one side of the problem, but the Muslims, wherever they are in the world, have direct links with other Muslims throughout the world or, at least, with the Muslims of India and Pakistan. They belong, along with the Muslims of other regions and other Islamic countries, to the same ummah. The blatant killing of Muslims and their harsh treatment does not seem to be very logical. I do not know if the killing of Muslims in Sri Lanka should be mentioned in this same context, or should one call on these deeds to be stopped and be accounted for by appealing to the law banning mass killing and genocide [preceding word in French].

The world of Islam is an awakened world today, which attends to its own problems and deals with them. In this respect one must refer to the clashes in southern Lebanon and mention that it is not in the interests of Islam and Muslims for these clashes to spread and for these acts of fratricide to increase. Especially, if so-called Arafat-supporters enter this fight with the cooperation of Israel, then the basic meaning of the confrontation between these two factions or parties, also changes. That is, had it been said in the past that Hizballah and Amal...[changes thought] with the entry of this faction, in this form, then the problem changes, and there is need for a speedy end to these confrontations; and Muslims should really consolidate their forces against the chief, usurper, Zionist enemy.

Regarding judicial and domestic issues, I thought that there might be an opportunity to present you with a brief report, at least about the work done over the past year by the country's judicial organizations. I then realized that this report would be defective if I selected some good things to say, and which need to be heard by our people, for if they are not mentioned, it would be wrong. But if I were to hurriedly speak of these, this is also a problem. I should also be thinking of time, in this hot weather. So, I have left these for another occasion and shall only mention one or two points.

The first concerns Article 35 of the Constitution regarding the practice of open hearing in courts which was welcomed by the esteemed judges, the religious judges, colleagues in the judiciary, as well as the people. [passage omitted] Another article in the Constitution related to this is the right of the parties in a case to choose an attorney. [passage omitted] I will not elaborate here what the conditions or qualifications of the jidiciary's attorneys should be—that they should be correct people and qualified persons and so forth. [passage omitted] I will just say for the moment that the courts must pay attention to this principle and grant the parties to the case the right to choose their attorneys.

Another point is the issue of doctors working at the Coroner's Office and the importance of this. [passage omitted] I ask the respected minister of health, treatment, and medical training to pay exceptional attention to this. [passage omitted]

I have been informed that a group of esteemed brothers and officials of the revolutionary Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, Mr. Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi, along with a large number of commanders, participated in the splendid Friday prayers. When I spoke to them a while ago, I requested that they translate talks and discussions about unity into action; they should translate words and slogans about unity into action. For sure, God willing, this time and at this stage, the mujahid forces of Afghanistan, united in action, can achieve their principle objectives for the growth of Islam and for the salvation of their country, God willing. [passage omitted]

### Habibi, Yazdi Condemn Invasion

*LD1208162990 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 12 Aug 90*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA—Head of the judiciary branch Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi on Sunday [12 August] condemned the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, stressing on respect for the sovereignty of nations and the international law. The ayatollah told a meeting of judicial officials that "differences between governments should be solved by negotiations." He said "as far as Iran is concerned the internationally accepted borders as approved by the United Nations are valid and should be respected as unalterable by any means including military invasion." In related news, First Vice-President Hassan Habibi rejected the annexation of Kuwait to Iraq and opposed any changes in the defined international borders. He also described the presence of the foreign forces in the region "against the spirit and policy of the Islamic revolution" and called for the settlement of the regional problems by regional states.

### Velayati on Iraq's Military 'Aggression'

*LD1308180490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati attended a gathering of medical students studying abroad. He noted the military aggression of Iraq against Kuwait and recent events in the Persian Gulf region and compared the independance of Iran and Kuwait, both of which have been the target of aggression of their neighbor. He added: Recent events have shown that true independence is not achieved through great wealth and dependence on great powers. It depends on the efforts of a nation in the realization of their cultural identity. He added: Mutual relations with a various countries of the world do not mean dependance, and the growth of nations of the world depends on their interaction. The Islamic policy is based on logical relations with the world, in order to show the world the ideals encompassed in Islam.

Velayati stressed: Those who have strived to obtain scientific qualifications and are prepared to help work toward the reconstruction of the country will be supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In conclusion, he invited all Iranian students abroad to help the reconstruction of the country when their studies are completed.

### Velayati Receives Shevardnadze Message

*LD1508154690 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA —Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati received a message from his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze today. The message was handed over to Foreign Ministry Spokesman Morteza Sarmadi by Soviet Ambassador to Tehran Vladimir Gudev. The message is said to deal with the current developments in the Persian Gulf region.

### Ministry Views Iraq's 'Shameful Act'

*LD1508155490 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Tehran, August 15, IRNA—The presence of outside forces in the Persian Gulf was denounced by the Foreign Ministry deputy for education and research in his meeting with home-coming university students Tuesday.

'Abbas Maleki said that although Iraq committed a "shameful act" in invading and occupying Kuwait, Western countries brought more shame upon themselves by increasing their military presence in the region." He described as "monetary and territorial ambitions" Iraq's aggression upon tiny oil-rich Kuwait. Maleki said that according to diplomatic sources in Kuwait, Iraqi troops seized advanced missiles, aircraft and radar systems from the small Kuwaiti Army, and looted 4 billion dollars from Kuwaiti banks.

The official once more insisted on the unconditional pull out of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and made it clear that regional security should be maintained by regional states and not by outsiders.

On steps towards normalization of ties with Britain, Maleki said the National Security Council took the

decision after British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd admitted that the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" was offensive to Muslims. A committee at the Foreign Ministry is studying the issue but so far there has been no particular move in this regard, he added. The official promised the student visitors that in case of resumption of ties with Britain the Foreign Ministry will take into consideration "interests of the nation and respect towards Muslim sanctities."

Economic affairs deputy of the planning and budget organization, Masud Nili also addressed the students and spoke of a noticeable cut in the budget deficit this year. On effects of the June 21 quake on the five-year development plan, Nili said according to preliminary studies the quake caused damages totalling dlrs. 7.1 billion. However, he added, in view of the provisions for unforeseen events taken by the plan, the losses would not affect its broad outline.

The third speaker was Deputy Commerce Minister Dr. Dauddi, who listed the damages suffered by Iran during the eight year Iraqi imposed war, "whether direct or indirect" amounting to dlrs. 97.1 billion.

### Khamene'i Ready for 'Any Aggression'

*LD1508162290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Islamic revolution leader Ayatollah Khamene'i has stressed that Iran's position on aggression will not change. Speaking to a large group of Iranian Muslims in Tehran this morning, Ayatollah Khamene'i expressed Iran's readiness to confront any aggression by any power.

Referring to the recent developments in the Persian Gulf region, the Islamic revolution's leader compared Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to the United States attack against Grenada and Panama, while commenting that the United States has always been thinking of strengthening its military presence in the Persian Gulf. The leader added that the governments that have called on the United States to defend their countries have in fact programmed [as heard] their lack of popular support. They have to pay a high price for dealing a harsh blow to their own nations by facilitating a U.S. military presence in their own country, the leader went on.

Ayatollah Khamene'i continued, saying that the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia is a disgrace for the Muslim people. The Islamic revolution's leader added that this will lead to the expansion of the United States' domination in the region.

In another part of his speech the Islamic revolution's leader stressed that Iran condemns aggression by Iraq, the United States, or any other country. Ayatollah Khamene'i added that the U.S. forces' presence in Saudi Arabia is against the interests of Islam, the Muslim world and the Islamic revolution.

### Countries Request Overflight Permission

*LD1508075390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] In the wake of the recent developments in the region and the presence of military fleets, which have made the region unsafe, many foreign countries have requested permission for flights to pass over airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. The deputy minister of road and transport and the head of the state civil aviation, after returning from Oman, in an interview given to our correspondent, while announcing this news, added: At present, our country's air traffic has increased by 40 percent.

On the outcome of this visit, he said: During the meeting with the Omani officials, we held four rounds of talks and an agreement on air transporation was signed between the two countries, on the basis of which there will be one weekly flight by the IRI's airlines and one by Gulf Air between Tehran and Muscat.

### Syrian Officials Bring Message From Al-Asad

*LD1608074590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Mr. 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian vice-president, accompanied by Mr. Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister of that country, last night arrived in Tehran and was met at Mehrabad Airport by Mr. Habibi, first vice-president, and Mr. Velayati, foreign minister of our country.

According to our reporter, the purpose of Mr. Khaddam's visit to Tehran is to deliver the message of Mr. Hafiz al-Asad, president of Syria, to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of Iran.

### Lebanon's Junblatt Joins Gulf Crisis Talks

*LD1408081890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Druze sect in Lebanon and that country's minister of public works, arrived in Tehran this morning. He was welcomed by Sayyed-Kia, minister of roads and transport, and by the deputy foreign minister in charge of African and Middle Eastern affairs.

In a press interview conducted at Tehran Airport, Mr. Walid Junblatt said that the aim of his visit to Tehran is to exchange ideas with Iranian officials about the dangerous situation in the region. He added: The Iraqi onslaught against Kuwait and the massing of U.S. troops in the Arabestan has created a situation in the Persian Gulf region which makes the future look uncertain. Consequently, enjoying good relations with the Islamic revolution of Iran in all fields, we are sensitive to such events. Hence, the aim of my visit to Tehran is to increase coordination with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

### Discusses Tehran-Tripoli Flights

*LD1408180290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[Text] At a meeting this afternoon between Mr. Walid Junblatt, Lebanese minister of road and transport [minister of public works], and Mr. Sayyed-Kia, our country's minister of roads and transport, the two ministers exchanged views on ways and means of establishing flights between Tehran and Tripoli. They also discussed sending experts to explore technical assistance on roadbuilding.

### Thai Minister Visits, Discusses Relations

*LD1208122290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Aug 90*

[Text] In a meeting with First Vice President Habibi, Thai Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Praphat, in noting the long relations between the two countries, expressed the hope that the formation of a joint commission would result in increased friendship and cooperation in economic, commercial, political, and scientific and technical fields between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Thailand. He then noted the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and asked for the realization of potential ties.

Mr. Habibi, in turn, noted the relations between the two sides, and added: We plan to expand our relationship with the nations of the Far East, and as far as relations with Third World countries are concerned, we believe that they can satisfy the economic and commercial needs of one another through cooperation. He noted that in establishing relationships all capacities should be used in order to safeguard peace and stability in the world. As far as relations between the countries of the region and the Far East are concerned, he added: We must try to ensure peace and security in the Persian Gulf, in the Sea of Oman, and in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Mr. Habibi expressed his hope for the success of the joint commission.

### Continues Talks 12 Aug

*BK1308132390 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 12 Aug 90*

[Text] Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan, deputy foreign minister, who is currently in Iran, held a question and answer session in Tehran with the mass media, which included representatives from REUTER, Visnews, AFP, the Iranian news agency IRNA, and THE TEHRAN TIMES. He inquired about the situation in Kuwait and Iraq in order to obtain useful information for Thailand. On his country's relations with Iran and the problem of the Muslims in southern Thailand, the deputy foreign minister asserted Thailand's policy of equal treatment of all races and the absence of religious discrimination in Thailand. He said that the situation in southern Thailand is the work of a group of people and has nothing to do with religion.

Next week, Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin will visit Iran to negotiate arrangements for oil purchases to balance imports for local consumption in the event of a halt of imports from Iraq and Kuwait.

Concerning the latest developments in the Middle East, sources in Tehran said that on Sunday there will be an embassy evacuation drill there in the event of a crisis since Iraq has been adopting a tough stand with regard to the Arab world. There was also a report that Iranian troops had moved close to the Iraqi border preparing to seize the previously disputed area of an oil field.

Concerning the evacuation of Thai workers from Iraq and Kuwait, Thai Embassy sources said that preparations had been made for the evacuation based on three principles—to remain in place if the safety of the workers is not threatened, to start an evacuation if the situation warrants, and to evacuate workers only on a voluntary basis. Those are the guidelines for contingency planning.

Yesterday, 2d Lt. Praphat met the president of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce while the delegation from the Thai private sector met with the Iranian private sector.

The Thai military delegate, Major General Thawan Sawaengphan, director of Military Operations, held a meeting with the president of Iranian military affairs, equivalent in standing to a deputy defense minister. The two sides exchanged views on general topics because this was the first meeting of its kind between military officials of the two countries. On the issue of Iraq, the Iranian deputy defense minister opposed the action taken by that country.

On trade issues, Thailand proposed to sell farm products and industrial goods to Iran. Iran wants to sell oil to Thailand. In any case, buying oil from Iran is unlikely because Iranian oil is of a different grade than what is currently being imported.

Regarding the political situation there, the Iranian foreign minister is reportedly on a three-week tour of the Middle East countries in order to reassess the Iranian stand. According to the latest developments, Iran has dispatched troops close to the Iraqi border. Iraq, meanwhile, has called on Muslims worldwide to crush all governments and to take Mecca back from Saudi Arabia for the Muslim people.

Diplomatic sources in Tehran noted that Iraq has been taking a tough stand and did not attend the summit in Cairo.

According to the latest report from Tehran received at 1100 GMT, the Thai deputy foreign minister met Iran's first vice president, Dr. Habibi. He then met the deputy oil minister, Mr. (Hedyad Khowaydah). At 1700 local time in Iran, an agreement on cooperation in trade, economy, and technology will be signed by Thailand and Iran. The agreement will be signed jointly by the Thai deputy foreign minister and the Iranian deputy commerce minister.

As for Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat's plan to visit Saudi Arabia to check on the Thai workers there, there has yet been no approval from the Saudi Government. Second Lieutenant Praphat has therefore decided to visit instead Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, as there is also a large number of Thai workers there, and it is also the closest one can get to the area of the current crisis.

### Signs Agreement, Ends Visit

*BK1308162790 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] Tension in Iraq and Kuwait is likely to spread to Saudi Arabia following threats from Iraq, and this constitutes a threat to the safety of Thai workers there. Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan, deputy foreign minister, who is currently in Iran on an official visit, has decided to travel to Saudi Arabia tomorrow to see Thai workers and also to prepare for their evacuation in the event of a crisis.

There are more than 150,000 Thai workers scattered throughout Saudi Arabia. About 4,000 of them are at the border between Saudi Arabia and Iraq and their safety is being threatened. The Foreign Ministry has been coordinating with concerned authorities in order to be ready for their help. It is believed that the first stop for the deputy foreign minister tomorrow will be Riyadh. Praphat was scheduled to visit Thai workers in the United Arab Emirates today.

Yesterday, at the Iranian Foreign Ministry in Tehran, a memorandum of understanding between Thailand and Iran was signed for setting up a joint commission on cooperation in the economic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, technical, and scientific fields. Also an informal agreement was reached during the Thai deputy foreign minister's meeting with the Iranian deputy oil minister under which the Petroleum Authority of Thailand will import from Iran about 1.8 million barrels of oil in the fourth quarter of this year at the same price it was sold to Japan. Officials of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand will arrive in Tehran, in the delegation of Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin, to sign the contract.

Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan today met the minister of the Prime Minister's Office of the United Arab Emirates. He also met Thai workers there. Tomorrow, the deputy foreign minister and his party are scheduled to go to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to visit Thai workers and coordinate plans for their evacuation in the event of a crisis.

## *RESALAT Report on 26 Jun 90 Majles Session

*90AS0182A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Jun 90 pp 5, 11*

[Text]

### Zia'i, Miandoab Deputy: This Is the Day of God's Test and Sympathizing with the Aggrieved Members of the Society

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Zia'i, the representative of the people of Miandoab, Sa'in, and Jarutekab. At the beginning of his speech, he offered his condolences on the occasion of the disasterous earthquake to the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, the Majles, the government, and the free and steadfast nation and, especially, to the survivors of the painful tragedy of the earthquake, and said:

By thanking the public and the good nation, I request that they continue to give their selfless and eyecatching assistance. They must know that religious, national, patriotic, and human obligations dictate that we rush to the aid of the victims—by utilizing all our capabilities—who, today, have lost all that they had and the fabric of their lives have been shattered while yesterday they had homes, a wife and children, parents and relative, and were hapily going about their businesses. We must soothe the physical and psychological scars of these dear ones by wiping the heavy pain that befell their hearts.

Today, many countries are sympathizing, announcing their cooperation and dispatching aid and rescue teams which is the result of their appriciation of the depth of pain and the extent of the disaster. Although these activities are in response to similar activities by the Islamic Republic toward other countries when disasters had struck, and considering that the cost of the total assistance may not exceed the proceeds from two day's sale of oil, however, in my position I thank all nations and international charity organizations for their sympathy and cooperation. Also, I categorically deny all the rumors in regard to the Islamic Republic's nonacceptance of medical and rescue assistance and state that [such reports] are fabricated by the enemies of humanity. Except in regard to instances that the mighty Government of the Islamic Republic has officially announced its views, I announce to the noble nation and dear compatriots that they should not believe that just because foreign countries have rushed to assist us all the problems will be solved and there will be no need for the great efforts of each and every member of this nation! We must act in a way to provoke the awe of the world. In a way to fulfill our human responsibilty toward those who, themselves, used to be friends and partners and today expect our assistance and help. Divine and human duty dictates that we offer all our facilities and resources for the complete rebuilding of the destroyed towns and villages. It is the duty of all those who have the ability to adopt and raise orphaned children and support individuals to do so. They must know that it will please God and He will bestow his blessings upon them. The brave nation! Today is the day of God's test and sympathizing with the aggrieved members of society. What ever we have is from the grace of God and we must give it in the way of the Almighty.

He then referred to the ninth anniversary of the martyrdom of 72 disciples of the imam, especially the innocent martyr Ayatollah Beheshti, and the attempt on the life of the exalted leader of the revolution by the ignorant hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and said: On the occasion of the anniverasry of the assasination attempt by the ignorant hypocrites against the blessed life of the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and the innocent martyrdom of Dr. Beheshti and 72 of his sincere and loyal friends who were all among the true servants of the Islamic country, I shall read some excerpts of the gem-like and life-giving messages of his eminence the imam (may God sanctify his soul) in connection with these events. "Now the enemies of Islam are demonstrating and registering the level of their political thinking, their support of the masses and opposition to tyrants by attempting to kill you (His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i) who are from the line of the Prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) and who belong to the house of Hosayn son of 'Ali (peace be upon him) and have not committed any crime but serve Islam and the Islamic country, are a self-sacrificing soldier in war, a giving teacher in the pulpit, a poweful speaker in Friday [prayers] and gatherings and a sympathetic guide on the scene of the revolution."

In continuation of his message on 28 June 1981, the founder of the Islamic Republic says: "I congratulate you, dear Khamene'i, who have served this innocent nation in combat uniform at the war fronts and in clerical robe behind the war fronts. I ask God Almighty to give you health to continue to serve Islam and Moslems."

Also, on 29 June 1981, after Dr. Beheshti's martyrdom he said: "These were all dedicated people who were revered by the people. They were revered by the clergy and it was not such that they were desperate and were seeking recognition. May God judge those who were seeking recognition and wished to force Beheshti, Khamene'i, Rafsanjani, and the like of them out of the scene."

**Farzpur, Astara Deputy: All Must Share the Tormenting Grief of the Mournful**

The second pre-agenda speaker at the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Farzpur, the deputy from Astara. In regard to the recent earthquake tragedy he said: Today, the meadow of Deylam does not have the freshness and life of the past. Sefidrud is sobbing in the death of its dear ones. Fields, streams, forests, desert, mountains, and sea sit in mourning.

Today the whole of the west and north, the wide land of Gilan [Province] and the Caspian sea sit in mourning for the children of that land. What was the secret that Alborz mountain had held in itself for so long but it could hold no longer and trembled to reveal it. It was a very bitter and heavy news. It is a story full of sadness.

In continuation, the speaker added: The news is heavier than all of the untamed Alborz. The news of a fearful and destructive earthquake. The news was broadcast by the Voice and Vision that Rudbar has been completely destroyed. The town of olives, this fruit of the heaven, which its leaf is a sign of peace and reconciliation. Rudbar, the ancient land and the capital of the Gustavian [as published], the region that was the center of one of the most ancient civilizations has been leveled with dirt. Now it is the burial place of hopes and wishes. Today the mountainous regions of Amarlu, Manjil, Rudbar, Lowshan, Deylam, Eshkorta, beyond Rasht and the plains of Fuman and large parts of the cities of Langarud, Lahijan, Astaneh Ashrafiyeh, and Rudsar have been wounded. However, the wounds on the bodies of the towns of Manjil, Rudbar, and Lowshan are much deeper. From now on, Manjil, Rudbar, and Lowshan will not greet their visitors and will no longer smile upon anyone. Looks are cold, talks are sad, tongues are agitated, and hearts are withered.

The deprived villages of Amarlu, Rahmatabad, Deylam, and Ashkur lack the luster of yesterday. Olive trees sing the sad song of losing their lost masters. Homes lay ruined, wishes and hopes are shattered. The loved ones who were proud yesterday have their eyes on a loaf of bread, pack of dates, a glass of water, or a single battery to turn on the radio and find out what has happened to the neighboring villages today.

He then added: Yes, Gilan is burning in fever and a slight relief for the fevered body of Gilan depends on a national and international movement. It calls on the human conscience to come to its aid. All must apply the relieving medicine on Gilan's body and all must share in the tormenting grief of the mournful.

These days we have witnessed the relentless efforts of the people to repair the damage. Our people have created the most tender moments of emotion and sensitivity. They did not refrain in their efforts to assist the earthquake victims. Praise be upon their manly efforts.

The speaker gave the following memorandum to the government:

1. Our country is on the line of earthquakes. It is in the semi-arid region. Drought and flash floods are among the characteristics of this part of the world. In view of these, if we cannot wipe out all signs and aftermaths of floods, droughts, and earthquakes—which indeed will require immense investments and utilizing much force—at least we can think about limiting the immediate damages [of such disasters].

2. Strengthening the scientific strength of the geophysics [centers] of the universities and training experts in the areas of geology and natural geography and creating a spirit of research and study in university students and scientific study of natural phenomena aimed at preventing disasters.

3. Expanding the exchange of views, scientific and cultural cooperation with advanced countries that have expertise in earthquakes.

The representative of the people of Astara explained some points regarding the method of rescue assistance and said:

A. Mobilization of all forces and facilities and implementation of correct management in their utilization.

B. Stockpiling the international aid for suitable and orderly distribution must be taken into highest consideration.

C. Coordination and organizational management of material needed for lessening the material as well as moral damages must be taken into consideration.

D. Continuous and precise supervision of residential and office building codes. Decisive confrontation of violators of residential building codes. Climatic and geographic considerations in various areas and architectural style must be taken into account.

E. Publicizing and explaining the extent of damages all around the world, arousing humanitarian concerns and utilizing the international aid, especially that of Islamic countries.

The speaker then asked that the Ministries of Education and Training and Higher Education review the plans for final examinations and university entrance exams for Gilani and Zanjani students or at least those students who have been affected by the earthquake.

In conclusion, he stated his gratification for the assistance of the people and government, especially the people of Astara, and also the international assistance—particularly Moslems of Soviet Azerbaijan.

**Khalkhali, Qom Deputy: The People of Iran Have Demonstrated that They Will Persevere in the Face of Disaster**

Mr. Khalkhali was the third pre-agenda speaker at the Islamic Consultative Majles. He offered his condolences and said: As we came down from Kuhin, we saw the land that had opened like an angry dragon and swallowed our compatriots in Lowshan, Manjil, Rudbar, Rostamabad, Lahijan, Langarud, Fuman, Taram, and Zanjan. However, the noble people of Iran have demonstrated that they will persevere in the face of disaster, like 10 years of the imposed war. They have resisted and have not shaken in the winds of turmoil. They will repair the damages. The exalted leader is the father of all orphans and protector of all orphans and widows. We must rush, with all our hearts, to the aid of the victims.

He added: Popular aid has been pouring in from across Iran. Obviously it will not end here and it is our will and decision to reconstruct all the quake-stricken areas. Of course, it needs time and it is a matter known to the survivors in those areas and those who have given martyrs and blood. Those who wrote our history and are presently in Iraqi prisons. The children of Rudbar, Lowshan, and Zanjan understand this.

In regard to international assistance he said: We thank all nations of the world, the peoples of America, England, France, and all free nations. We shake their hands that have been stretched to shake the hand of the Iranian nation. However, this does not mean that we will forget our martyrs and bloody history which has been written with the blood of our martyrs. We cannot forget the killing of over 300 people in the downing of the Iranian jetliner or the martyrdom of 400 hajj pilgrims in the trenches of heresy and blasphemy. They think they are showing us something exclusive. [Salman] Rushdie donates $80,000 of his money to Iran and wants to compromise.

The president is alert about this issue and knows that there are some tricks in this regard. They want to build a bridge over [our heads], trap us with their conspiracy and laugh at us.

In regard to the separation of nations from governments he said: Nations are different from governments. We are getting help from nations. However, this does not mean that we are getting close to America and compromising the blood of our martyrs. The blood of our martyrs in the fronts of Iran, Lebanon, Palestine, and Algeria will not be forgotten and whomsoever decides to draw a line of disregard on this blood, we shall draw a line of disregard on his life.

The representative of the people of Qom then referred to the inspection of the quake-stricken areas by the executive officials of the country and the obligations of the government and said: The inspection by the esteemed officials of the government, the president, the Majles speaker, and the high ranking delegation was a soothing relief on the horrible wounds of the people and strengthened their will to persevere before disasters. The government must consider its action regarding water resources, water, fuel, and the farmers' crops.

**The Representative of the People of Sarband-e Arak in the Islamic Consultative Majles: Alertness and Futuristic Vision Must Take the Form of Civil Defense in Dealing with These Events**

The fourth pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Astaneh, the representative of the people of Sarband-e Arak, who in his speech referred to the recent earthquake tragedy and said: Once more the Iranian nation has been put to a big test and, with the grace of God, it shall come out of this great divine test victorious yet another time. The disastrous earthquake tragedy in the north and northwest of our country left tens of thousands dead and wounded and many destructions. I went there and personally witnessed the cries of orphaned children and mothers who lost their children. There, it is as if everything talks to you. The destroyed towns and villages, brothers and sisters who were buried under tons of dirt, tunnels and roads that have been blocked by mud slides, plains and rice patties that have been deserted, the wounded, the hurt and the survivors all and all call us to come to their aid. Now, this is us and this is the arena of giving and the test. Thank God, during the past several days, the proud people and government rushed to the aid of the victims with a decisive resolution and we are thankful for that. We also thank the civilian and military

officials, especially the president and the nation who with self sacrifice, love, and giving all that it could aided the brother and sister victims. And, we thank the nations and governments who sincerely sympathized with Iranian Moslems.

He emphasized: The issue that must be mentioned is the futuristic vision and alertness which must be shaped in the frame of civil defense. Such a task requires training and organization of forces and equipment. Many parts of our country are in the earthquake line and the possibility of its occurrence is always there. Approximately, once every 10 to 15 years an earthquake causes extensive damage. It is hoped that in future planning, by utilizing the experience and advanced technology in home building and urban development, stronger construction and better control and supervision of the government and appropriate organizations can be implemented.

Mr. Astaneh then referred to the anniversary of the innocent martyrdom of [the hajj Pilgrims] and said: This is the anniversary of the bloody Friday of Mecca in 1366 [21 March 1987-20 March 1988]. Friday 29 June is the anniversary of the innocent martyrdom of those who had travelled to the land of love and the God-seeking crusaders who were massacred only because they said "There is no God but God", in the town of Abu-Taleb [the Prophet's grandfather] and in the sacred house of God. I personally witnessed the breaking down of the sacredness of the shrine by the mercenary Saudi rulers. Cries of acquittal of heretics and slogans of "God is great", "There is no God but God", "Death to America", "Death to Israel" were floating in the air. The flag of the criminal America was being burned among the crowd. A beautiful model of the Qods [Masjed al-Aqsa in Jerusalem] was being carried on the shoulders of Moslems. Women, with the mothers of martyrs in the front, were on one side of the street and men were on the other side and being led by the dear [disabled veterans] on special wheel chairs. Pilgrims were heading toward the holy shrine for prayer when, suddenly, the Saudi police in full gear and the secret police in civilian clothes and armed with stones and iron bars following behind the police began killing the guests to the house of God from all directions and from atop buildings. People were falling as a result of deadly gases. Water cannon vehicles were spraying the people with boiling water and hot bullets were piercing the chests of pilgrims. The [true] face of American Islam was quite evident. While the street was covered with martyrs, wounded, and their blood, Saudi mercenaries stood at prayer. I heard that on the same night, before prayer at the holy shrine, the chapter of "The Elephant" [from the Koran] was recited. By claiming that the purpose of the march was to occupy the sacred shrine and transfer the Ka'abah to Qom and tens of other lies, Saudis tried to raise questions about this divine demonstration. In conclusion, with aid from the spiritual words of the departed loved one we shall hold dear the memory of those who cried against the heretics during the bloody Friday of Mecca in 1366.

In conclusion, he read parts of the imam's remarks regarding the crime of the House of Sa'ud.

**Musavi-Tabrizi, Tabriz Deputy: Public, Professional, Cultural, and Political Security of the People Hinges on the Independence and Power of the Judiciary**

The last pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi. In his speech he referred to the tragic earthquake and said: The tragic and sad event of the earthquake was such that all pain-familiar people were saddened. The depth of the tragedy was much more extensive to be clearly depicted here. We offer our condolences to all the bereaved, the survivors, and the leader of the revolution. We declare that the Iranian nation and the esteemed Majles deputies share their grief and are in mourning.

The speaker—while offering his congratulations as well as his condolences to the survivors of the 28 June martyrs—referred to the assassination attempt on Ayatollah Khamene'i by the ignorant hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and said: Our exalted leadership was saved from bandits and deviated grouplets and is today the leader of this nation. This event is indicative of the depth of wickedness of the hypocrite grouplets and deviationists that had our country in their grips. Also, as the imam said, they thought that by killing a number of our distinguished leaders they can defeat our Islamic Republic and the Islamic Revolution. Thank God, not only did they not succeed in their design and goal, but also the defeat returned to them and before the end of the year 1360 [21 March 1981-20 March 1982] their most important dens of corruption—which according to them were indestructible steel trenches—faced defeat. As a result of the activities and efforts of the anonymous members of the Revolution Komitehs, the Pasdaran [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps], the innocent Basij [mobilized] personnel, and the revolution courts that worked day and night—indeed, what day and nights that passed. Despite the pain, tragedies, and threats, these loved ones rolled up their sleeves and quickly destroyed this cancer that had spread into our society. Thank God, today our country enjoys such a security that can be said is unique among all countries.

Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi then referred to Justice Week and said: I thank the officials of the judiciary, especially Ayatollah Yazdi, who declared this week as Justice Week. This move was very appropriate and there was a seminar in this regard. The issue of the judicial branch in Islam or any country which is ruled by the law, is not a dictatorship or tyranny and where true democracy prevails is the most important force in the country. The judicial branch must have the greatest power in the country. Also, what is above all in the judicial branch is that no individual, group, and organization should interfere with it. Public, professional, cultural, and political security of the people hinges on the independence and power of the judicial branch. Today we see a lack of

security in our country. It seems that among the Hezbollah, even the senior officials of our country, the servants of the society—even honorable judges, revolution courts, magistrate and public courts—lack the necessary security which they must have. Why? Because our judiciary lacks its [rightful] Islamic position that it must have. Our judiciary lacks that strength and intellectual power that it must have. We have not been able to solve the social and cultural problems of the society 12 years after the revolution. This is the weakness of the judiciary and its lack of independence.

(Of course, these words are not directed at the present executives of the judicial branch. It has been a year since they took on this responsibility but we expect them to act more expeditiously.)

In a judicial branch where every six months or a year new policies are being implemented—policy of decisiveness, policy of confrontation, then again policy of non-confrontation and non-decisiveness—the people cannot know their duty. Neither the guilty nor the innocent and dedicated know their duties. In such a country the guilty [person] is safe and the dedicated [person] is in danger. Today in our country it is being felt that, at times and under the guise of freedom, they go to the limits of immorality. They say whatever that comes to their mouths and, at time, to state a rightful statement, even a deputy gets afraid of saying what is on his mind. This is not right that immorality reach a point where sometimes in public people can say [whatever that comes to their mind about the great leader of the revolution] the imam, the exalted leadership of the revolution, and the officials of the Islamic Republic and they cannot be stopped. At the same time, the prohibition of freedom reaches a point where there may be hesitation about stating the right.

As the great leader of the revolution stated in his message for the anniversary of the passing of the imam—and a few days before that [the same was said by him] in the judges seminar—and, also, stated by the chiefs of the judiciary, executive, and legislative branches, the judicial branch and our courts must be courts of justice. They must be open courts so that every accused can defend himself. Secret and behind-the-scenes courts, especially after one year imprisonment; our society does not have the necessary tolerance [patience] any longer and, thank God, security prevails in our society and the accused, according to the Constitution, can hire an attorney.

In conclusion of his speech, the representative of the people of Tabriz cited Principals 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 32, 34, 35 of the Constitution and said: I hope, God willing, we can witness the implementation of complete justice and the rule of law in courts and value the services of the clergy and the Hezbollah brothers of revolutionary courts. Those who are upset about lack of justice, we hope that their grievances can be resolved.

**Deputy Majles Speaker: Devotion of the People and the Government Lessens the Pains of the Victims**

Legal and Majles Division:

The Islamic Consultative Majles held an open session yesterday morning. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemyan, deputy Majles speaker, in his remarks offered his condolences to the earthquake victims and said:

The depth of the calamity is very extensive, but what calms the pain and soothes the hardship of the victims is the unpretentious and loving sympathy of the Iranian nation and the devotion of our dear government who rushed to the aid of the wounded, the orphans, and the survivors and offered them all they had with sincerity. We thank the hard-working government and executive officials who try so hard to save the victims of the earthquake and, also, the people of Iran who donated blood as well as materials. We ask God to bestow success upon all those involved in these efforts.

Mr. Hashemyan added: The Iranian nation has learned well in its school the way to endure tragedies. The nation has patiently endured the tragedy of war and other calamities before the revolution and has made them the foundation of its development. I also thank the esteemed deputies, some of whom are among the people on a daily basis.

In continuation, the deputy Majles speaker said: In all of this, what seems ironic is the so-called assistance of some governments who have turned humanitarian, including America, [Saudi] Arabia, and Iraq. He then pointed out to the statements made by American officials regarding the aid for victims of the earthquake and said: Of course we exempt the American people and direct our statements to the American leaders who imposed calamities more severe than the earthquake in the heat of the revolution and after the revolution by forcing the war on us. You who downed the passenger plane with hundreds of men, women, old, young, and children on board and sent them to the bottom of the sea, have become humanitarian and shed crocodile tears for victims of the earthquake? Who is going to believe it? Murder is in the trait of the American leaders. We have observed this trait in Palestine, Lebanon, and.... There is no need for your assistance and, if you are sincere in your love for mankind, release the blocked wealth of the Iranian people so that it can be spent on the reconstruction of quake-devastated areas.

Mr. Hashemyan added: It is also ironic that heretic leaders of [Saudi] Arabia, who in line with their subservience [to the United States] massacred over 400 pilgrims to the sacred house of God, claim to be humanitarian.

In this regard, he emphasized: Aid and assistance have no meaning in the vocabulary of these governments and no one expects them to do so either.

In continuation of the open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles, the report of the Legal and Judicial Affairs Commission, which was prepared in response to the request of Mr. Qazizadeh-Hashemi—the deputy from Sarakhs, Ahmadabad, and Fariman—regarding the conduct of the Public Prosecutor of Mashhad and the problems of the farmers with the [administration] of the sacred shrine of Imam Reza was read. It was stated in

this report: "A crowd of about 2,000 people and farmers of Sarakhs city region while carrying their shovels and picks congregated in front of the Jame' Mosque of Sarakhs on 3 March 1989 to conduct demonstrations. The demonstrating crowd chants slogans against officials of the Shrine administration while walking toward the Martyr Chashk Circle. And it concludes after the speech of the father of a martyr citizen. Objections and points made by the participants in this demonstration centered around two points:

1. Large sections of land and property in Sarakhs are not endowed to the Shrine of Imam Reza and, thus, ownership of the Sarakhs office of Property and Farming Association is not determined and is contested.

2. Objection to the policies and unjust, discriminatory criteria in conveyance of land to the farmers in this region. They believe the land has been rejuvenated by their ancestors [and, therefore, is owned by those who recovered it].

Following the demonstration, the Provincial Security Council was formed. It dispatched a delegation led by the Governor of Mashhad to the area on 4 March 1989 which heard the complaints of citizens in the Jame' Mosques of Sarakhs and promised to convey their views and problems to responsible officials and convey the results to them within 15 days. Thus the people of the region were calmed down."

The text of the report indicates that, due to the lack of action in regard to the stated promises, the objections of the citizens and the farmers of Sarakhs continued. Finally, Mr. 'Alizadeh, General Prosecutor of Mashhad, travels to Sarakhs and forms the Security Council which orders the arrest of several individuals as prime instigators. Thus, the problem escalates.

The report of the Legal and Judicial Commission of the Islamic Consultative Majles—after reflecting upon the events of 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], the complaints of the accused and the arrested, the problems of the farmers with the Property and Farming Association of the Shrine of Imam Reza, the problems of Sarakhs' part-time farmers and the endowed lands in Sarakhs—published the result of its investigation of the said matter and expressed its view on the handling of the situation by the Mashhad Public Prosecutor as follows [begin quote]:

1. At the time of arrival of His Excellency Mr. 'Alizadeh, the esteemed Prosecutor General of Mashhad, to Sarakhs there was no forced occupation [of any premises] and the issue had been resolved the previous day. His action contributed to increased disarray.

2. The Public Prosecutor of Mashhad was, at first, supposed to arrest those whose names appeared on the combined list but, in practice, it arrests 35 more people [in addition to those on the list].

3. The Public Prosecutor of Mashhad tore up the complaint of the people from law enforcement agents and never investigated it.

4. After sentencing a number of those arrested, in his interviews with the daily QODS, issue No. 595 dated 16 Jan 1990; and the daily RESALAT, issue No. 1166, he gave political color to a merely judicial matter. Some judicial officials of Khorasan Province considered his interview to be inappropriate and believed that such action more complicated the Sarakhs issue. However, he continued to be persistent and conducted the second interview with RESALAT, No. 1239 dated 22 Apr 1990. His statements during this interview—in regard to his appearance before the Judicial Commission of the Majles, his meeting with the investigative delegation dispatched to Mashhad by the said commission and their report which was not yet presented to the Majles—are as follows:

"It must be noted that, in this connection, a delegation tasked by the Principal 90 Commission [Judicial Commission] came to holy Mashhad which, after hearing my responses, realized the correctness of my actions."

Ultimately, the solution to the issue of Sarakhs is not harsh treatment of the people and the matter must be resolved wisely and in a calculated manner. [end quote]

In conclusion, the dispatched delegation offers the following suggestions: [begin quote]

1. With respect to the remarks by the esteemed [judge] of branch 25 of the Criminal Court of Mashhad who stated, "After issuing the verdict we had planned to pardon each and every one of the accused" and considering the remarks by the esteemed Public Prosecutor of Mashhad who said, "If there were not going to be any investigations we would have resolved the issue ourselves", the request for pardoning all those involved, be their sentences final or suspended, is very appropriate and well advised.

Obviously, those who have officially [openly] insulted the esteemed Administrator of the Sacred Shrine of Imam Reza cannot be pardoned.

2. A group composed of experts and representatives of the Document Registration Office of Khorasan Province and the capital should be tasked to investigate, organize, and determine the status of registered plots in Sarakhs.

3. The issue of part-time farmers should be reviewed and investigated by the Property and Farming Association of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza and request from the esteemed administrator of the holy shrine to act on correcting the appropriate articles.

4. Regarding the request of the dry-farmers of Sarakhs region, it is necessary that restrictions on exploitation of dry-farming land be lifted.

5. Some of the land is in a boarder strip near Sarakhs in a region called Jangal. The question in Shahrivar of 1368 [23 August-22 September 1989] of it being endowed is contested by the people and the farmers. In 1320 [21 March 1941-20 March 1942], in an exchange between the Soviet Union and Iran, this strip of land was given to the Islamic Republic of Iran. In fact, the old Soviet border post is still standing on this land. The Document Registration offices of Sarakhs and Khorasan Province have not presented any documents concerning this land. If [the administration of] the sacred shrine of Imam Reza can not prove that this land had been

endowed, then the government will have the ownership of this land. [In that case] it will be appropriate on behalf of the government to distribute the land among the farmers in order to solve their problem.

6. In regard to providing land for housing, the provincial administration of Khorasan must act through the office of the Director General for Housing and Urban Development and its offices in Sarakhs city region in order to prepare adequate plans for transfer of land to the people.

7. Implementation of multi-purpose projects in the border area—such as creation of fish ponds and water distribution canals—are among useful projects that require expansion and maintenance.

8. The complaints of the accused and the arrested in objection to the behavior of the law enforcement agents, which have not been investigated, shall be reviewed by the appropriate judicial sources.

9. Investigation to determine if the land is endowed is required in regard to a large area of land in Sarakhs. According to the verdict by members of the commission selected by the esteemed administrator of the sacred shrine, subject of Article 2 of the Law to Nullify Deeds of Sale of Water Rights and Land, passed on 17 Apr 1983 by the Islamic Consultative Majles, the Deed of Sale and Exchange numbered 10203 at the Notary and Document Registration Office Number 11 of Tehran and dated 11 Oct 1936 shall be considered null and void. Therefore, the Sarakhs land belongs to the government and the deeds of 1082 farmers [owning] six hectares each shall be consider valid. [end quote]

The second item on the agenda was the report of the Housing and Urban Development and Roads and Transportation Commission in regard to the continuation of the research and investigation of Mr. Rai'si, Shahr-e Kord deputy, which after the report of the commission was put to a vote and passed.

The third item on the agenda was the report of Health and Welfare Commission. The determination [by the commission] of the experimental period for the legal plan for formation of the Medical Association of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to be five years. This was passed by the Majles deputies.

The last item on the agenda was the report of the Revolutionary Institutions Commission in regard to the legal plan for creation of facilities for the disabled [veterans] of the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war (returned by the Council of Guardians) which some of its corrections were passed.

Article 1 was corrected as follows:

Article 1: In order to create jobs, alleviate the problems of the Center for Collection and Centralization of Statistics and Information, and presentation of more suitable services to the disabled veterans of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war (as mentioned in Note One of this article), coordination among organizations that have been active in this area and supervision of the activities of the said organizations in correct implementation of this law, the president is obligated to form the Headquarters for Coordination of the Affairs of the Disabled to be structured as follows:

(1) The president or his representative who will hold the chairmanship of the headquarters.
(2) The minister of agriculture or his representative.
(3) The minister of interior or his representative.
(4) The labor minister or his representative.
(5) The minister of economic affairs and finance or his representative.
(6) Representatives of the Martyrs Foundation, the Foundation for the Affairs of the Self-Sacrificing Devotees [the Disabled], the Basij Resistance Force, and other appropriate organizations as required.

Note 1: The legal interpretation of the term, "Self-Sacrificing Devotees of the Islamic Revolution and the imposed war" in this law and all other laws and regulations shall include self-sacrificers, freemen, and all other combatants who served at least six months in the war fronts as volunteers prior to the ratification of this law, children and spouses of martyrs, MIA's, POW's, disabled veterans with over 60 percent disability, anyone who fosters families of martyrs, POW's, MIA's and whomever is being supported by the aforementioned individuals and presently lacks any source of income.

Note Two: The Headquarters for Coordination of the Affairs of the Disabled shall determine the method for granting fundamental agreements and all other authorizations and facilities subject of this law, all laws and regulations and methods and forms of the use of these facilities by the disabled and their commitments in connection with using these facilities.

Article 2 and its Note 1 were corrected as follows:

Article 2: All ministries that issue fundamental agreements and business permits are obligated to set aside 40 percent of their total annual fundamental agreements, which are subject to provision of foreign exchange from the issuing ministry, within the framework of laws and regulations governing the employment of the disabled veterans.

Note 1: The aforementioned ministries are obligated to issue a fundamental agreement or work permit for employment of disabled veterans—within the framework of the related laws and regulations and at any time of the year—for that group of manufacturing units which do not require foreign exchange or their foreign exchange is being provided by disabled veterans.

Article 4 was corrected as follows:

Article 4: The Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics is authorized to form an organization, under the auspices of the disabled veterans headquarters, to be called the Disabled Veterans Service Organization by utilizing its facilities to identify, introduce, and collect statistics and information aimed at employment of disabled veterans and put into operation manufacturing units.

Article 6 was corrected as follows:

Article 6: The Agriculture Ministry, its affiliated organizations, and the land transfer delegations are obligated to allocate at least 40 percent of the transferable land—along with technical and fundamental services—within the framework of the passed laws and regulations and by utilizing the existing facilities in order to provide employment for the disabled veterans. Also, in order to provide the required credits for this purpose, texts of the permanent Notes 60 and 64 of the modified 1352 [21 March 1973-20 March 1974] budget law, and the 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975] budget law shall be applicable.

Note 1: The number of land transfers, subject of this law, shall be determined in accordance with local customs and from dry-farming lands.

Note 2: In the transfer of agriculture facilities, such as insecticides, seeds, fertilizers, livestock, poultry, and materials, and other facilities, such as hygienic and fundamental services—except in cases of fixed salaries and earnings of individuals—the priority shall be given to the disabled veterans.

Note: Persons subject to this law are obligated to act on rehabilitating the land within two years after its transfer otherwise the subject land shall be transferred to other applicants subject to this law.

## Nepal & Bhutan

### Communist Party Criticizes Coalition Government

*BK1508152790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1344 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug. 15 (AFP)—The Nepal Communist Party [NCP] strongly criticised the current interim coalition government Wednesday for its failure to curb inflation, corruption and blackmarketeering. In a press release on resolutions adopted Tuesday by the Politburo's standing committee, the party warned the government of Krishna Prasad Bhattarai against "conspiratorial activities" by the Constitution Recommendation Commission on the transfer of sovereignty to the Nepalese people.

It accused the government of working against democratic rights and social values, contrary to its earlier declaration that it would provide relief to the common people. The annual budget for 1990-1991, which goes into effect on July 16, failed to address the social and economic problems of the people, the party said.

The NCP called on all democratic leftist forces to forge a united front on national and international issues. The NCP is a major critic of the present coalition government, which it accuses of betraying the popular movement that led to its creation. It has often campaigned for a republican style of government in Nepal.

## Pakistan

### Envoy Cites Steps To Protect Citizens in Kuwait

*BK1308172890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] The Pakistan Embassy in Kuwait has taken a number of steps to safeguard and protect Pakistani nationals due to the prevailing situation in the Gulf region. The embassy has started registration of all families and issuing emergency passports to all nationals whose passports are not available. It has also set up a central welfare committee and 20 area committees to address to any problems of members of the Pakistani community. They will also provide food and shelter to the needy. The Pakistan ambassador to Kuwait has said, in consultation with international agencies and other affected countries, Pakistan will organize evacuation of families from Kuwait in case such a need arises. He said all Pakistanis in Kuwait are by and large safe and their morale is high.

### 1,005 Pakistanis Reach Riyadh

*BK1608044090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] According to the latest information received from the Overseas Pakistanis Foundation [OPF], another 1,005 Pakistani nationals have reached Riyadh from Kuwait, while 136 Pakistanis have arrived in Amman from Kuwait and Iraq. They are being looked after by the Pakistani embassies in Saudi Arabia and Jordan and arrangements are being made to send them back to Pakistan. The OPF, in cooperation with the Pakistani Embassy in Saudi Arabia, is making full efforts to enlist, support, and repatriate Pakistanis somehow reaching Riyadh and Amman from Kuwait. The embassy has set up a relief camp on the border with Kuwait from where Pakistanis are being shifted to Riyadh for onward transportation to Pakistan. The embassy school in Riyadh is being used for housing Pakistanis arriving from Kuwait.

A spokesman of the OPF told ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in an interview that the foundation offices in Islamabad as well its branches in Karachi, Multan, Lahore, Quetta, Mirpur, and Peshawar are operating around-the-clock to render assistance in repatriating Pakistani nationals from Kuwait. The list of such Pakistanis are minutely updated and notified over a circular board outside all offices of the foundation in Islamabad and its branches. The spokesman said welfare messages were also being exchanged on telex and fax to render positive help to the affected overseas Pakistanis and their dependents. He said the telex contact with Iraq is possible while it is cut off with Kuwait. The number of fax installed at Islamabad is 821506.

### Shiite Leader Condemns U.S. Troop Deployment

*BK1108113090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Aug 90 p 10*

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 10—Hujatoleslam Syed Sajid Ali Naqvi, Chief of Tehrik Nifaz-e-Fiaq Jafria [Movement for the Enforcement of Shiite Faith, TNFJ] has condemned the deployment of US troops in Saudi Arabia. In Press statement the TNFJ Chief criticised the Saudi regime who invited American forces to protect its kingdom. The landing of US troops in Saudi Arabia is a challenge to the honour of the Muslim world, he said.

He said it should now become clear to the world that kingdom of Saudi Arabia could put the sacredness of Harmain Sharifeen [two holy mosques] on risk just to save their corrupt rule. This is why the Muslims were demanding the declaration of Mecca and al-Madinah as independent cities and handing them over to a joint committee comprising world Muslims.

Referring to the political situation in the country, Allama Sajid said the TNFJ would play decisive role in the forthcoming elections. A meeting of the Political Cell of TNFJ has been called to evolve an election policy.

Talking about the Shariah [Islamic law] Bill he said the TNFJ was in favour of implementation of Shariah. The present Shariah Bill was, however, not envisaged after taking all schools of thought into confidence. He said Islamic system of justice was a penacea to all the ills inflicting our society.

He also advised those demanding of the Premier or the President to enforce Shariah Bill through an ordinance, to take all seats into confidence. This is vital to the country's integrity, he stressed.

### Premier on 'Special Institutions' for Corruption

*BK1308032890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0200 GMT 13 Aug 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said special institutions will be created under the law to deal with cases pertain to corruption and no one will be spared in this regard. In an interview with NEWSWEEK, he said the process of accountability is necessary because some example will be left for those who will come in the future to be free from malpractices. In reply to a question, he said there are solid and clear evidences to prove his statement that the ousted government was involved in corruption and nepotism. In reply to another question, he said he is ready to fully cooperate with Ms. Benazir Bhutto in electioneering and to provide all the facilities which she may like to utilize.

### Details Structure of Tribunals

*BK1508113990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has said tribunals to probe into the misdeeds and malpractices committed during the previous government will be constituted shortly. Talking to newsmen on arrival from Islamabad at the Karachi airport this afternoon, he said the tribunals will be headed by the judges of high courts. The (?accountability) process would be carried out even-handedly without any discrimination, and anyone found guilty will not be spared. He dispelled all notions that the accountability process will in any way be used for the victimization of political opponents. He reiterated that the process of accountability will not hinder the elections which will be held on schedule.

The prime minister said the government will ensure that peace and tranquillity in Sindh is maintained at all costs. In reply to a question about sending troops to Saudi Arabia, he said the issue will be thoroughly examined by a committee of experts of the two countries to determine the requirements and availability. He said defense of Pakistan was dear to his government and it will be given priority over anything else. He made it clear that whatever the number of troops Pakistan may send to Saudi Arabia, they should in no way be considered against Iraq. Our sole purpose in sending troops is to protect our holy places in Mecca al-Mukarraammah and Medina al-Munawwarah.

Mr. Jatoi said the government is much worried about the safety and security of some 80,000 Pakistanis working in Kuwait and efforts are being made to obtain information about their well-being. Earlier, the prime minister was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in Karachi on his first visit after assuming office.

### President Dissolves Economic Consulting Committee

*BK1508162990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] The president has accepted the resignation of Mr. Feroze Qaiser from chairmanship of the Consultative Committee on Economic Policy. A notice issued by the Cabinet Division in Islamabad says the president has also dissolved the Consultative Committee on Economic Policy.

The president has also accepted the resignation of Ambassador at Large Mr. D. Happy Minwalla.

### Congratulations Sent to India on National Day

*BK1508063190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi sent messages of congratulations to President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and Prime Minister V.P. Singh on the occasion of India's independence day today. In their separate messages, the leaders said that Pakistan longs for tension-free and good-neighborly relations with India based on equality and mutual benefit. They also expressed their full confidence that these good relations would benefit the people of the two countries and would prove an important factor for peace and stability in South Asia.

### 30 Senators Decide To Sit In Opposition

*BK1608042690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] In Pakistan, the new caretaker government of Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi yesterday suffered a major setback when 30 members of the Senate declared that they will act as an opposition in the house. Reports say that the members had taken exception to the new government's style of functioning.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jatoi has announced that special tribunals will be set up in a few days to try members of Ms. Benazir Bhutto's ousted government on charges of corruption. The tribunals will be headed by high court judges and their decisions would be binding. The prime minister ruled out the immediate lifting of emergency.

The interim government has dismissed the head of the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, Mr. Aslam Sheikh. A government announcement in Islamabad said that Mr. (Ruh Nisar) has resumed as head of the official news agency on the expiry of his long leave since January 1988.

### Fazlur Rahman Offers Alliance to Other Parties

*BK1608043590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Maulana Fazlur Rahman, the secretary general of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, has said that his party has offered a wider election alliance with all like-minded parties. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad yesterday, he stressed the need for evolving a joint strategy to keep corrupt individuals out of the assembly.

### Conservative Party Leader Criticizes U.S.

*BK1508170490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1657 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Aug 15 (AFP)—The chief of a prominent Pakistani conservative political party Wednesday denounced the U.S. troop buildup in Saudi Arabia. "We look with disdain at the presence of American forces on the sacred land," Maulana Fazlur Rahman, president of the Jamiat Ulema-E-Islam (Jui), told a press conference.

The cleric, who has a large popular following, said Pakistan's decision Monday to send troops to defend Saudi Arabia following Iraq's invasion of neighboring Kuwait was "undesirable." While his party did not approve of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, it also strongly opposed any attempt by a superpower to impose its will, he said.

"We feel that disputes between Arab states must be resolved by Arabs themselves through negotiations." [passage omitted]

According to official figures, about 90,000 Pakistani workers were in Kuwait at the time of the invasion. Officials said a few hundred Pakistanis had so far been able to leave Kuwait via Saudi Arabia and Jordan. They said the Pakistani Embassy in the Saudi Kingdom had set up a relief camp near the border to assist the returnees.

### Ziaul Haq's Son Made Muslim League Chief

*BK1208122390 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Aug 90 p 10*

[From DAWN Islamabad Bureau]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 11—Pakistan Muslim League [PML] President Mohammad Khan Junejo has appointed Ejazul Haq, son of Ziaul Haq as Chief Organiser of his party.

The decision was announced by PML Secretary General Iqbal Ahmad Khan on Saturday night.

Mr. Ejazul Haq, after having developed severe differences with former Punjab Chief Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif had joined the Junejo group within the party. He had refused to accept the portfolio of Punjab Vice-Presidentship of the party offered to him by Mian Nawaz Sharif.

PML Secretary General Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that Mr. Ejazul Haq will be given a free hand to reorganise the party at the national level. He hoped that the reorganisation of the party would be completed before the next general elections.

Mr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan informed that a manifesto sub-committee has been appointed by the party chief to draft PML manifesto for the forthcoming elections.

The 10-member committee will be headed by Dr Mahbubul Haq, former Finance Minister and the author of the five-point development plan of Junejo government.

The first meeting of the sub-committee would be held on Aug 13 at PML Secretariat in the Federal Capital.

### Doubts Elections Will Be Fair

*BK1208123190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Aug 90 p 6*

[Text] Wah Cantt, Aug 11—Ejazul Haq son of late Gen. Ziaul Haq, a prominent Muslim League leader and central chairman, Ziaul Haq Foundation, while addressing big public meetings at Taxila and Wah Cantt, yesterday declared that he had taken up the herculean task of leading the nation on the path to progress and prosperity. Others who accompanied Mr. Haq and also addressed the meetings were Javed Hashmi, senator Tariq Choudhry, Raja Zafarul Haq, Ahmad Raza Qasuri, Sarmad Salik, and Farrakh Mughal.

Ejazul Haq said that he stood for truth and righteousness like his Shaheed [martyr] father who gave his life for Islam and for the people of Pakistan. He declared that he would try to complete the mission of his father even at the risk of his very life. He said his father's mission included liberation of Occupied Kashmir, and successful completion of Afghan jehad.

Mr. Haq observed that it was not expected of the caretaker government of Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi to conduct a thorough and honest accountability. He also maintained that in the present set-up, fair elections were not possible. He and other Muslim League leaders sharply criticised the inclusion of Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Khar in the caretaker government and said that all those who had expressed satisfaction at the dismissal of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government of Benazir Bhutto, had been sorely disappointed at the inclusion people like Mr. Khar in the caretaker arrangement. Mr. Haq asked the president Ghulam Ishaq Khan to explain the statement of Mr. Jatoi that Mr. Khar had been included in the caretaker government by him (Ishaq Khan). He said Mr. Jatoi's statement in this connection was rather intriguing and had upset the people of Pakistan. He said the whole nation was unhappy over the inclusion of those in the caretaker cabinet whose past was dark and tarnished. He said that the people had already been greatly perturbed over the misdoings of the outgoing PPP government but nothing will change if the interim government comprised equally undesireable and unacceptable people. Mr. Haq and others also urged the president to obtain resignations of those in the cabinet who wanted to contest the forthcoming elections.

In the meanwhile, members of Ziaul Haq foundation of the two cities are making hectic preparations to participate in the second death anniversary of Gen. Ziaul Haq in Islamabad on August, 17.

There is no doubt that Mr. Haq is attracting crowds but his 'bold and frank' utterances which also include sharp criticism of Mr. Jatoi and his cabinet one of whom important member of Choudhry Shujat Hussain, a prominent IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] leader should cause some anxiety to IJI leadership and other Muslim Leaguers. Mr. Junejo and Mian Nawaz Sharif may have patched up, but Ejazul Haq does not seem to be still fully seeing eye-to-eye with Mian Nawaz Sharif and other Muslim Leaguers in his camp.

It was also learnt from a divisional PPP leader who talked to the Muslim yesterday that People's Party would also soon launch its election campaign and a public meeting will be held in Wah Cannt, in the third week of August, 90. This meeting, he further said would be addressed by Hanif Ramay and Fakhar Zaman who will reply to Ejazul Haq and his associates and also spell-out the party's strategy to contest the forthcoming elections.

### Bhutto Announces Reorganization of Punjab Party

*BK1608042990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Aug 90*

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, the cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], has announced the reorganization of the PPP's Punjab wing and approved the induction of several new officeholders in the provincial setup of the party.

### Afghan Rebel, Indian Sikh Leader Meet in Lahore

*BK1508161890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1530 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 15 (AFP)—A fundamentalist faction of the Afghan resistance said Wednesday its chief, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, had met a spiritual leader of Indian Sikh militants fighting for an independent homeland. The Hezb-e-Eslami said the meeting took place on Tuesday in Lahore, a Pakistani city bordering the Indian state of Punjab which is the centre of Sikh insurgency.

During the 90-minute meeting the Sikh leader, who asked that his name not be disclosed, narrated "stories of Indian atrocities" against Sikhs, a press release said. Mr. Hikmatyar, condemning the "suppression" of Moslems and Sikhs in India, assured the Sikh leader that the Afghan resistance would be willing to provide refuge to those fleeing "persecution" in Indian Punjab. "If the Afghan mujahidin come to power in Kabul, they will fully support the Sikh cause," he was quoted as saying.

## Sri Lanka

### Five Tamil Party Representatives Meet President

*BK1508154990 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Aug 90*

[Text] President R. Premadasa met representatives of five Tamil political parties—PLOTE, EPDF, ENDLF, EPRLF, and TELO [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, Eelam People's Democratic Front, Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front, Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, and Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization]—in Colombo last evening. The members of the delegation expressed their concern at the violence affecting innocent civilians of all communities in the Amparai, Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts. They observed that at a time when different communities in the Eastern Province should be working together against the common enemy—the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]—it was unfortunate that armed attacks followed by reprisal attacks were taking place against innocent civilians. The five Tamil parties requested the government to provide protection to people of all communities, especially for those who are in refugee camps. They brought to the notice of the president the attacks made on Tamil villagers and Tamils in refugee camps.

President Premadasa assured the delegation that the safety of the civilian population, whatever community they belong to, was paramount. He pledged all necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of civilians. The president impressed on the delegation the need at this time for the political leaders of the Muslim and Tamil communities to get together in the interest of communal harmony in the affected areas. It was accordingly agreed that the political leaders of the two communities meet to

work out effective measures which would ensure protection to the civilian population of the affected areas. The meeting has been scheduled for 1730 today at the cabinet conference room.

### Premadasa Sends Message on Indian National Day

*BK1408124590 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1150 GMT 14 Aug 90*

[President Premadasa's message to Indian counterpart on India's Independence Day]

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—On the occasion of the 43d anniversary of India's independence I wish to send my warm greetings to the government and the people of India. Since colonial times Sri Lanka has been inspired both by India's non-violent struggle for freedom and her commitment to the resolution of problems through discussion and mutual understanding. These noble ideals founded on the teachings of Lord Buddha, Emperor Dharmasoka and Mahatma Gandhi—three great sons of India—have inspired and guided successive generations of Sri Lankans as well. It is in this spirit that we have been seeking solutions to our problems through the process of consultation, compromise and consensus. I wish to state how deeply the government and the people of Sri Lanka appreciate India's understanding of the complex problems affecting Sri Lanka, states a press release issued by the Presidential Secretariat.

We are deeply grateful for the assurances given by the Government of India to the effect that your great country stands for the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. Also, India's assurance that there would be no interference in our internal affairs and that Indian territory will not be allowed to be used by militant groups for subversion against Sri Lanka is greatly appreciated by all our people. These sentiments strengthen us in the belief that India has a significant role to play in ensuring the stability of our region.

Sri Lanka on her part is conscious of the threats posed by subversive and divisive elements to the unity, amity and territorial integrity of India. It is our fervent hope that peace and stability will return to the troubled areas of your country in the very near future.

Sri Lanka looks forward to an abiding friendship with India and its translation into closer political, economic and cultural relations between our two countries.

### 1,700 Activists Said To Surrender to Government

*BK1308100090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0803 GMT 13 Aug 90*

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 13 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Independent Surrender Committee appointed by President Ranasinghe Premadasa concludes its work on August 20th 1990, a communique issued by the Information Department states. Prospective surrenderers could surrender to the civilian authorities under the auspices of the Independent Surrender Committee till the 20th of this month.

The committee further states that when it was set up on April 20, 1990, his excellency the president was informed that there could be around 2,000 persons who had participated in the youth unrest whose surrender was sought by the security forces and the police.

Since the committee was formed over 1,700 youth have surrendered to the civilian authorities under the auspices of the Independent Surrender Committee, the communique states.

### Australian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

#### To Discuss Trade, Economics

*BK1008113890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Aug 90*

[Text] Senator Gareth Evans, Australia's minister for foreign affairs and trade, accompanied by his wife Dr. Meran Evans, arrived in Colombo last night for a two-day visit. Senator Evans was received by the foreign minister, Harold Herath, on arrival. Senator Evans during his stay here will discuss international and regional development and trade and economic matters with the Sri Lankan Government, as well as seek a firsthand assessment on the current situation in Sri Lanka when he calls on President Premadasa and meets his counterpart, Harold Herath, and A.R. Mansoor today.

#### Reaffirms Arms Ban

*BK1108005090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1733 GMT 10 Aug 90*

[Text] Colombo, Aug 10 (AFP)—Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Friday that Canberra's ban on ammunition sales to Sri Lanka would not be reconsidered due to "very strict" defence export guidelines. Mr. Evans, who arrived in Colombo Thursday on the final leg of his South Asian tour, told reporters here that the Australian position would not change because of guidelines that make it difficult "to export lethal equipment in situations of civil conflict."

He said that Canberra's decision did not figure in his talks with either Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa or senior cabinet ministers but was only raised by his counterpart, Harold Herat, during an informal conversation. He told Mr. Herat that Australia's defence export guidelines "have always been very strict, very narrow" when it came to exporting arms to areas of civil strife.

Canberra turned down a request from Colombo to buy ammunition shortly after the renewed fighting between government troops and Tamil rebels broke out on June 11. Mr. Evans said the current violence in the predominantly Tamil northeast was widely discussed in talks he held with Mr. Premadasa, Mr. Herat and Trade Minister A.R.M. Mansoor.

He said that "whatever the rights and wrongs of the past may have been," Australia was fully aware of the immediate cause of the present conflict. "That's the breach of a cease-fire and the negotiating arrangements," Mr. Evans said, referring to the collapse of 14 months of peace talks between Colombo and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels on June 11. A year-long truce was shattered when the LTTE took hundreds of policemen hostage to renew their campaign for a separate state.

Mr. Evans, who returns home Saturday, said that in talks with the Sri Lankan Government, "we made it clear our distaste for the way in which that cease-fire was broken." The Australian minister also condemned the "killing of Moslems and Sinhalese" by the rebels, adding that "we hope very much this senseless violence will soon stop." More than 2,700 people, including large numbers of civilians, are reported to have died in eights weeks of fighting between government forces and the guerrillas. Thousands of others have been made homeless.

### Describes LTTE as 'Terrorists'

*BK1108115690 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Aug 90*

[Text] The visiting Australian minister for foreign affairs and trade, Senator Gareth Evans, has described the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] as terrorists. Senator Evans told a news conference in Colombo last night that the LTTE could be categorized as terrorists owing to their recent attacks on unknown Sinhalese and Muslims and also on some Tamils. He told newsmen that the question of defense material to Sri Lanka did not arise during his discussions with Sri Lankan leaders. He added that Australia's defense exports were very strict and narrow and it was difficult to export small arms in a situation of civil conflict. He added that Australia decided to continue its economic trust in Sri Lanka as part the greater investment being undertaken in South Asia.

He leaves the island this morning after a two-day official visit [sentence as heard].